RULE 53:
MUTUAL THERAPY

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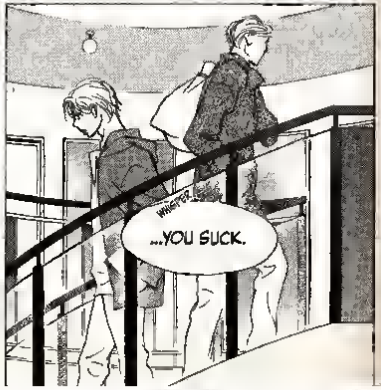

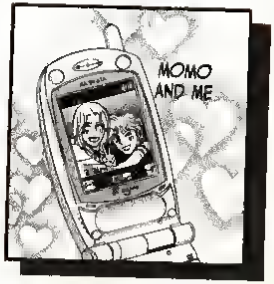

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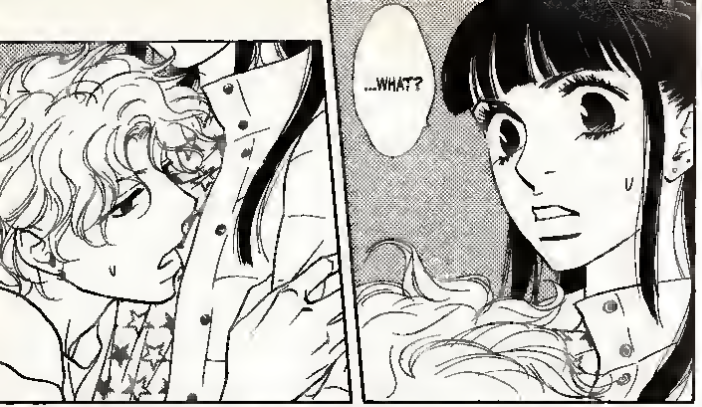
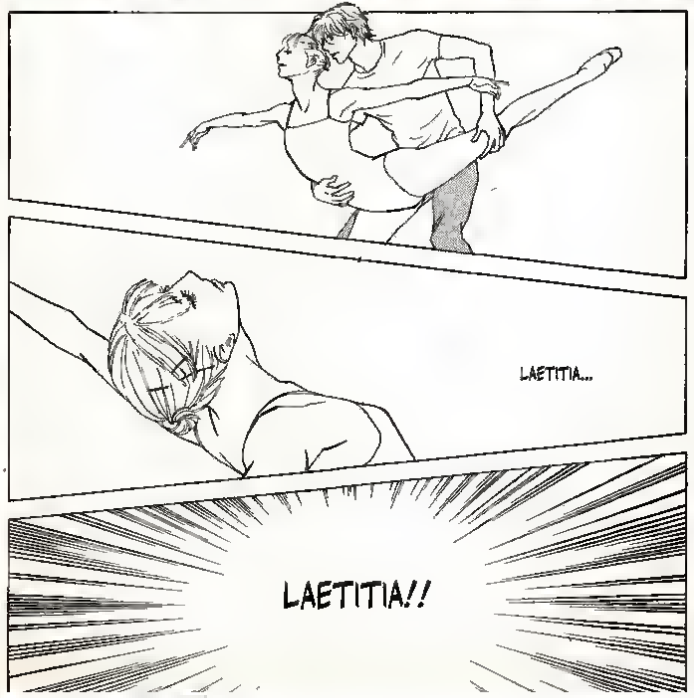


HE'S GOING TO BE IN THE SCHOOL RECITAL...
...EVEN THOUGH HE'S JUST SOME EXCHANGE STUDENT.
HOW'S HE GOING TO DANCE WITH THOSE STUBBY LEGS?



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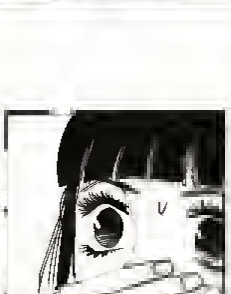
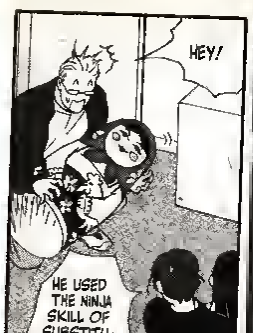
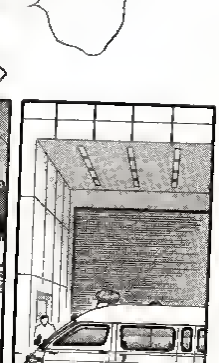
COULD YOU GET ME THAT DRUG AGAIN FOR WHEN IT HAPPENS NEXT TIME?
AND EVEN IF I WENT TO THE HOSPITAL, THEY WOULDN'T FIND ANYTHING WRONG WITH ME.





HEY! THERE'S A PORN STAR DOING A SWIMSUIT PHOTO SHOOT AND SHE HAS A MAJOR CAMEL TOE!
YOU CAN'T CALL YOURSELF A MAN IF YOU DON'T LOOK!



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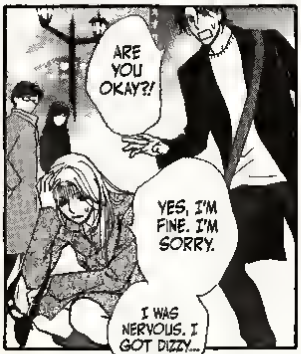

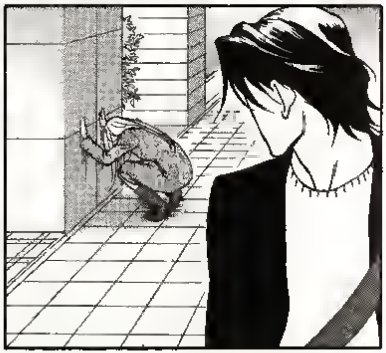

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NO, I'LL CHANGE MY FLIGHT TO THE FIRST ONE TOMORROW MORNING.
I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE YOU ON AN IMPORTANT DAY LIKE THIS!
SENPAI, SHOULDN'T YOU CHANGE YOUR FLIGHT FIRST?
OH! THAT'S RIGHT!
DO YOU THINK SHOPS WILL BE OPEN? CAN WE GET A BUS FROM HERE?
THAT'S RIGHT, THE RING! IT'S THE PERFECT TIME, SO WHY DON'T WE GO LOOK? WHERE SHOULD WE GO? GINZA?
I'M GLAD...
HE'S EXCITED.
UH.
YES.
I MEAN... TO THE MARRIAGE?
DID YOU JUST... CONSENT?
リンゴ
BECAUSE I'M DIZZY...!
UH, ANYWAY, SHALL WE GO SOME PLACE FOR SOME TEA OR SOMETHING?
WHAT? BUT IT'S SO LATE.
I'LL MISS MY FLIGHT IF--
IS IT OKAY? I MEAN... ABOUT WORK AND THINGS?
PLING
UH, WELL, BECAUSE OF WORK, WE CAN'T RIGHT AWAY...
YES, OF COURSE, THAT'S RIGHT.

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...DON'T BURN IT.
"BURN WHAT?" DON'T GIVE ME THAT--!
...LIKE I SAID, IT'S REALLY WORK.
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE UP? I'M HANGING UP NOW.
YOU DO THAT AND SERIOUSLY I'LL KILL YOU!!
CREAK
UH.

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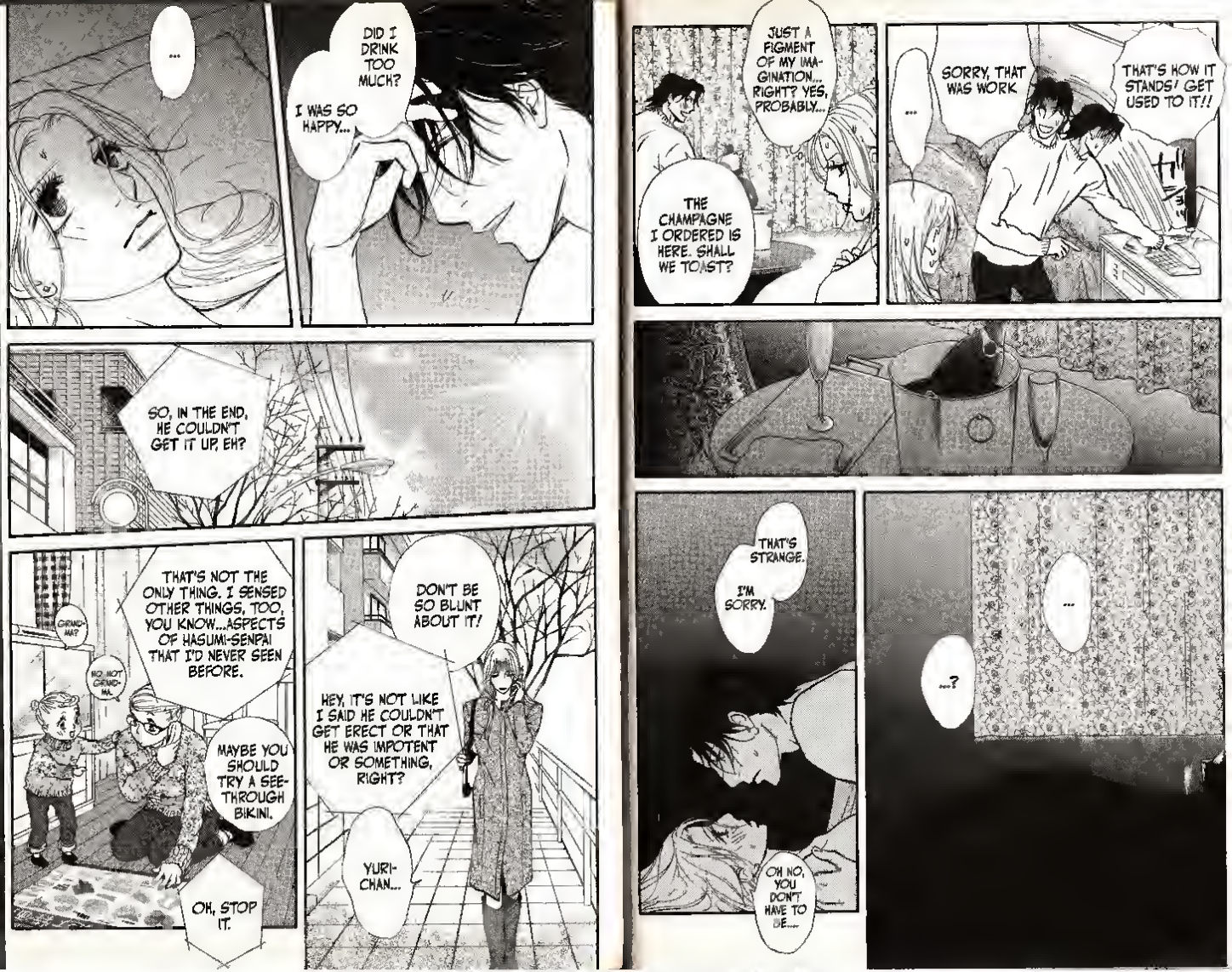
...
DID I DRINK TOO MUCH?
I WAS SO HAPPY...
SO, IN THE END, HE COULDN'T GET IT UP, EH?
GRANDMA?
NO, NOT GRANDMA.
THAT'S NOT THE ONLY THING. I SENSED OTHER THINGS, TOO, YOU KNOW...ASPECTS OF HASUMI-SENPAI THAT I'D NEVER SEEN BEFORE.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY A SEE-THROUGH BIKINI.
OH, STOP IT.
DON'T BE SO BLUNT ABOUT IT!
HEY, IT'S NOT LIKE I SAID HE COULDN'T GET ERECT OR THAT HE WAS IMPOTENT OR SOMETHING, RIGHT?
YURI-CHAN...
JUST A FIGMENT OF MY IMAGINATION... RIGHT? YES, PROBABLY...
THE CHAMPAGNE I ORDERED IS HERE. SHALL WE TOAST?
...
SORRY, THAT WAS WORK.
THAT'S HOW IT STANDS! GET USED TO IT!!
THAT'S STRANGE.
I'M SORRY.
OH NO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE...
...
...?

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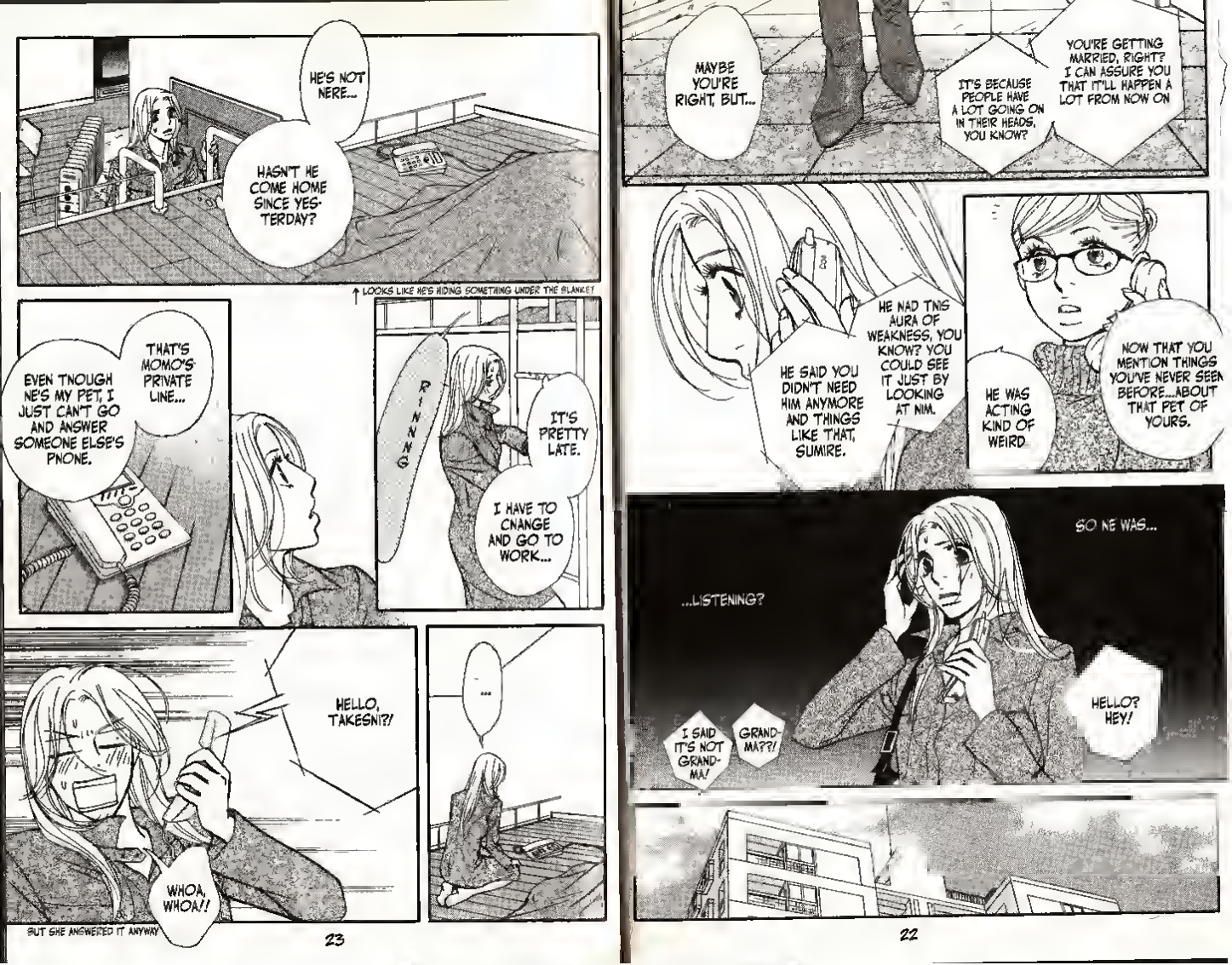
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT...
IT'S BECAUSE PEOPLE HAVE A LOT GOING ON IN THEIR HEADS, YOU KNOW?
YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED, RIGHT? I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT IT'LL HAPPEN A LOT FROM NOW ON
HE SAID YOU DIDN'T NEED HIM ANYMORE AND THINGS LIKE THAT, SUMIRE.
HE HAD THIS AURA OF WEAKNESS, YOU KNOW? YOU COULD SEE IT JUST BY LOOKING AT HIM.
HE WAS ACTING KIND OF WEIRD.
NOW THAT YOU MENTION THINGS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE...ABOUT THAT PET OF YOURS.
SO HE WAS...
...LISTENING?
HELLO? HEY!
I SAID IT'S NOT GRAND-MA!
GRAND-MA??!
HE'S NOT HERE...
HASN'T HE COME HOME SINCE YESTERDAY?
↑ LOOKS LIKE HE'S HIDING SOMETHING UNDER THE BLANKET
EVEN THOUGH HE'S MY PET, I JUST CAN'T GO AND ANSWER SOMEONE ELSE'S PHONE.
THAT'S MOMO'S PRIVATE LINE...
RINNNG
IT'S PRETTY LATE.
I HAVE TO CHANGE AND GO TO WORK...
...
HELLO, TAKESHI?!
WHOA, WHOA!!
BUT SHE ANSWERED IT ANYWAY

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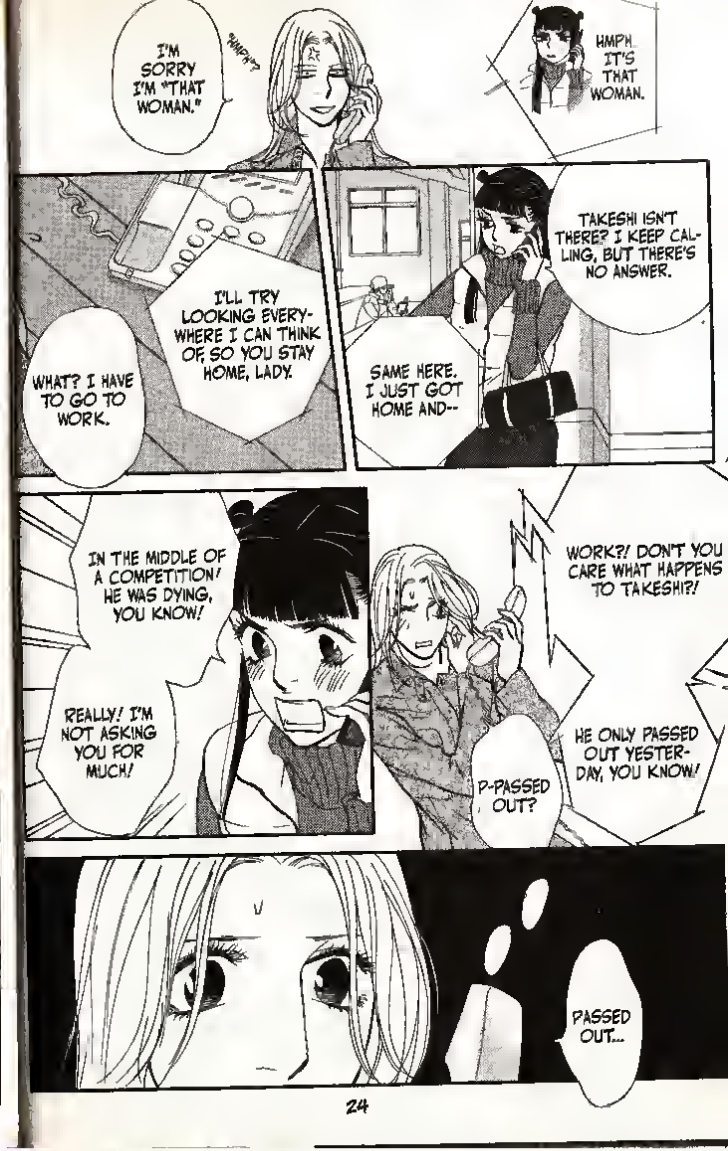
NOT AGAIN.
YOU KNOW EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY OF IT, DON'T YOU, RUMI?
YOU CAN'T SCARE ME OFF WITH SEXUAL HARASSMENT!
TELL ME ABOUT TAKESHI'S BODY!
MINO MODELING STUDIO
I DON'T KNOW ALL THE DETAILS EITHER.
I KNOW HE HAD THIS TYPE OF SEIZURE WHEN HE WAS AN EXCHANGE STUDENT IN FRANCE.
HE SAID HE'S TOTALLY OVER IT NOW.
IF YOU DON'T TELL ME, I'LL MAKE YOUR LIFE A LIVING HELL!
TOMONARI, DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS MONKEY ON MY BACK.
NO WAY. I'M NOT TOUCHING THIS ONE.
EVEN IF THAT'S TRUE, IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO.
LIMINO-SAN, YOU ARE SO COLD.
THAT'S HOW GROWN-UPS ARE.
WELL, YEAH.
BUT HE PASSED OUT! SO THAT MEANS HE'S NOT OVER IT, RIGHT?!
YEAH...


I'M SORRY I'M "THAT WOMAN."
RUMPY?
HMPH. IT'S THAT WOMAN.
WHAT? I HAVE TO GO TO WORK.
I'LL TRY LOOKING EVERYWHERE I CAN THINK OF, SO YOU STAY HOME, LADY.
TAKESHI ISN'T THERE? I KEEP CALLING, BUT THERE'S NO ANSWER.
SAME HERE. I JUST GOT HOME AND--
IN THE MIDDLE OF A COMPETITION! HE WAS DYING, YOU KNOW!
REALLY! I'M NOT ASKING YOU FOR MUCH!
WORK?! DON'T YOU CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO TAKESHI?!
P-PASSED OUT?
HE ONLY PASSED OUT YESTERDAY, YOU KNOW!
PASSED OUT...

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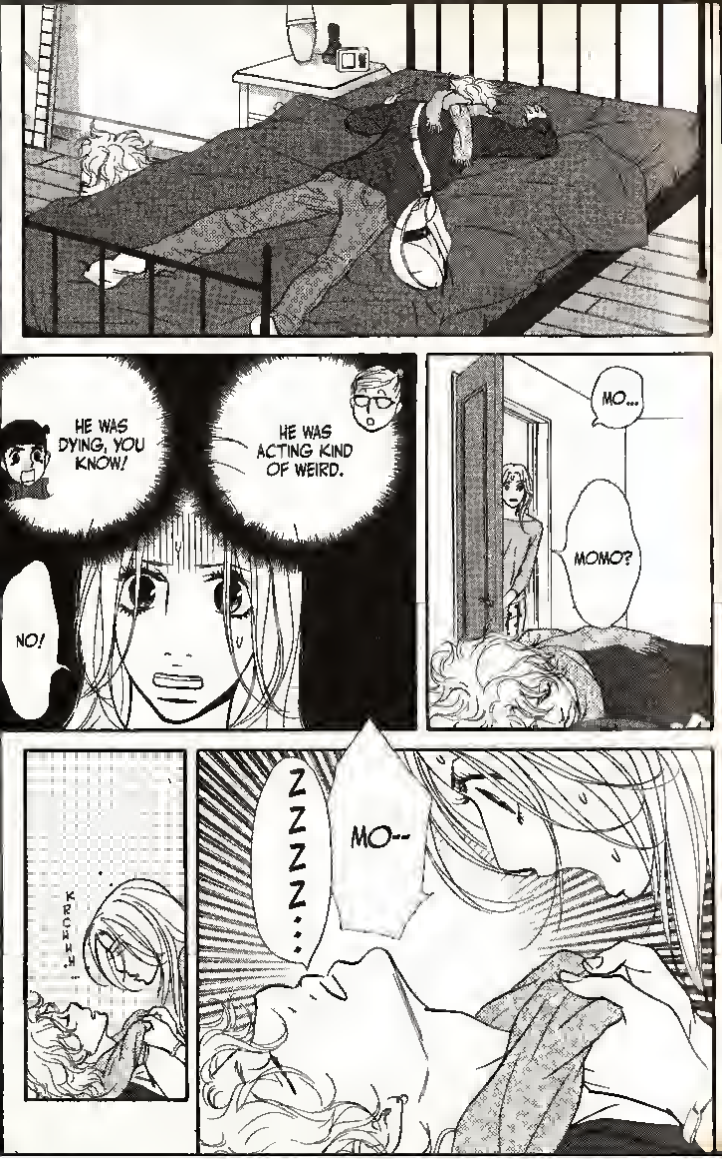

THEN ONE MORE THING.
WHO'S LAETITIA?
BIP
BEEP
BEEP
OKAY, NOW I CAN SEARCH THE NEIGHBORHOOD FOR ANOTHER TWO HOURS...
...BUT BEFORE THAT I'LL CHANGE, AND...
EMMA? IT'S IWAYA.
THE TYPESETTING FOR THE SUPPLEMENT IS COMING ALONG OKAY, RIGHT? UH HUH.
YEAH, I'LL LEAVE THAT UP TO YOU, TOO. I'LL BE THERE FOR THE THREE O'CLOCK MEETING.
?!

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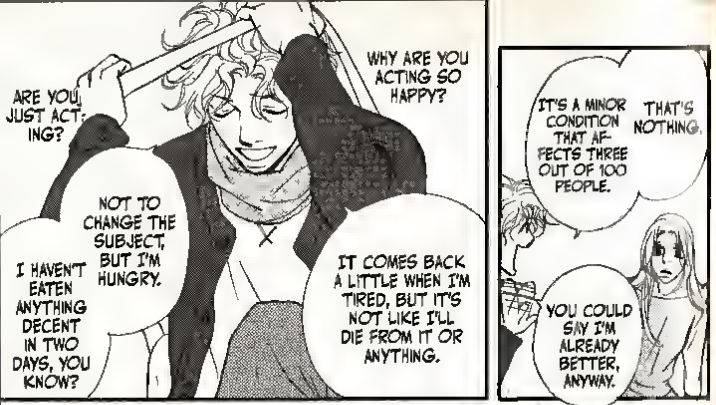
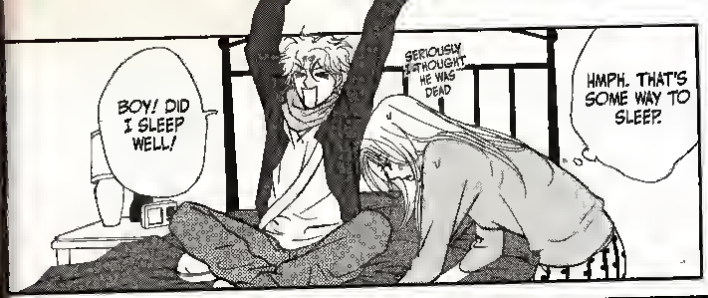
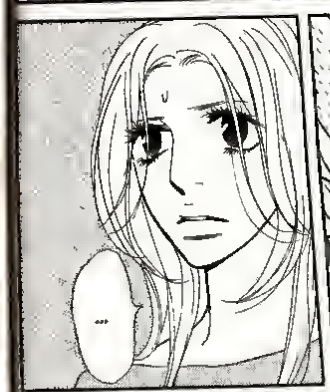
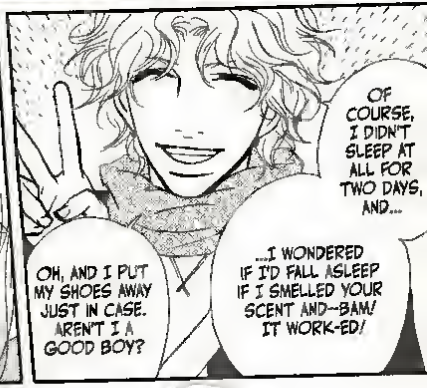

WHY ARE YOU ACTING SO HAPPY?
ARE YOU JUST ACTING?
NOT TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT, BUT I'M HUNGRY.
I HAVEN'T EATEN ANYTHING DECENT IN TWO DAYS, YOU KNOW?
IT COMES BACK A LITTLE WHEN I'M TIRED, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I'LL DIE FROM IT OR ANYTHING.

OR IS HE REALLY OKAY?...
SO I WENT AROUND TO SO MANY CONVENIENCE STORES, BUYING JUST ONE FROM EACH AND--
...IF YOU JUST BUY ONE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO! DID YOU KNOW THAT?!
OH YEAH! GUESS WHAT?! IF YOU BUY TEN SNACK STICKS FOR 100 YEN, YOU HAVE TO PAY FIVE YEN IN TAX, BUT I FIGURED OUT...






OF COURSE, I DIDN'T SLEEP AT ALL FOR TWO DAYS, AND...
...I WONDERED IF I'D FALL ASLEEP IF I SMELLED YOUR SCENT AND--BAM! IT WORK-ED!
OH, AND I PUT MY SHOES AWAY JUST IN CASE. AREN'T I A GOOD BOY?

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...!
HIS SUPPORTING HAND WAS LATE AND SHE HIT HER HEAD.
LUCKILY, IT WAS JUST A LIGHT CONCUSSION AND THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG WITH HER, BUT...
SO SHE DIDN'T TAKE THE ENTRANCE EXAMS FOR THE OPERA, AND SAID SHE WAS GOING TO GO HOME TO BECOME A BALLET TEACHER.
NOTE: "DANCE FOR THREE."
SHE COULDN'T DO THE PAS DE TROIS* ANYMORE.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
I WASN'T MADE FOR IT IN THE FIRST PLACE. THE COMPETITION'S TOO CRUEL...

PLEASE.
...DON'T TELL ME TO GET OUT YET.
THAT'S LAETITIA?
PROBABLY. I NEVER HEARD HER NAME, THOUGH.
...TAKESHI GOT TO DO A GALA PERFORMANCE WITH THE GIRL HE WAS GOING OUT WITH AT THE TIME
...IT SOUNDS LIKE THEY DON'T USUALLY LET EXCHANGE STUDENTS PERFORM AT THEIR SCHOOL RECITALS THERE. BUT...
ANYWAY, THAT WAS WHEN HE WAS HAVING THOSE SEIZURES, AND...
... ONE DAY WHILE PRACTICING...

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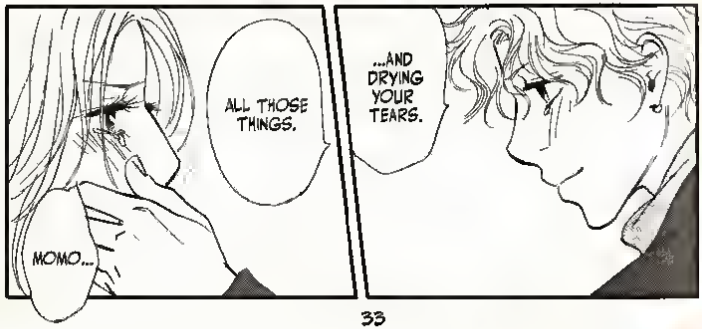
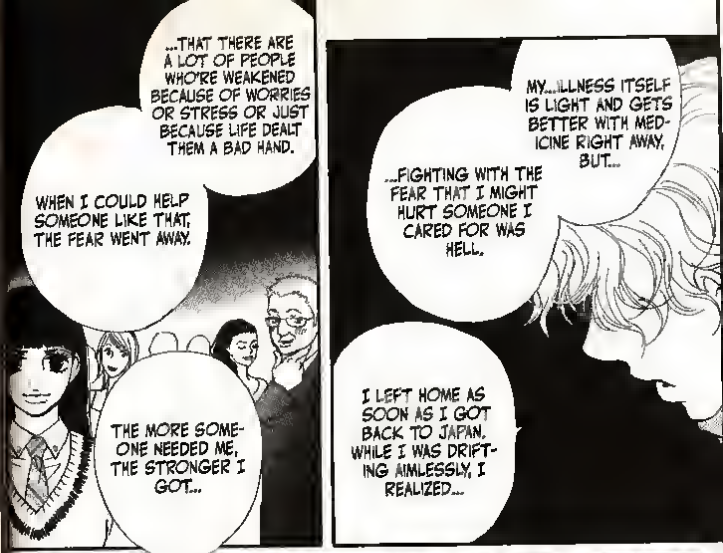
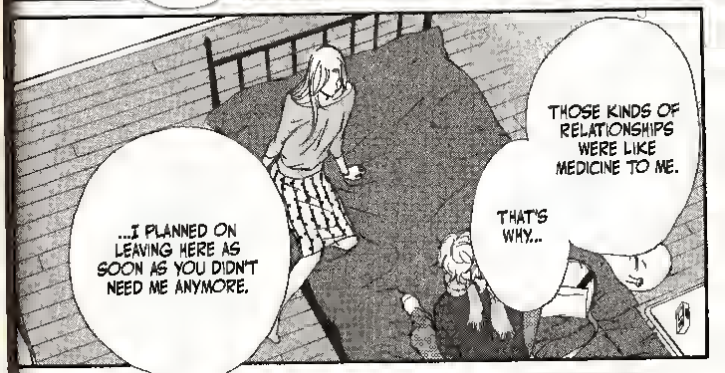
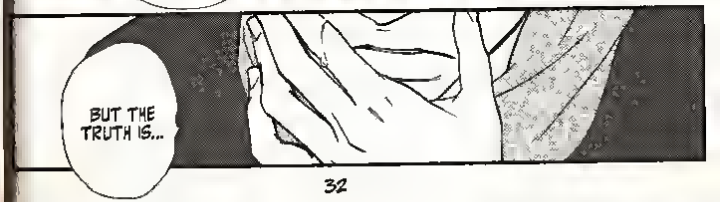
I NEED YOU FOR THINGS LIKE MAKING ME DINNER AND PATTING MY HEAD AND YELLING AT ME...
...AND PRAISING ME AND THROWING ME AROUND...
THE TRUTH IS...
...I NEED YOU, SUMIRE.




...THAT THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO'RE WEAKENED BECAUSE OF WORRIES OR STRESS OR JUST BECAUSE LIFE DEALT THEM A BAD HAND.
WHEN I COULD HELP SOMEONE LIKE THAT, THE FEAR WENT AWAY.
THE MORE SOMEONE NEEDED ME, THE STRONGER I GOT...
MY...ILLNESS ITSELF IS LIGHT AND GETS BETTER WITH MEDICINE RIGHT AWAY, BUT...
...FIGHTING WITH THE FEAR THAT I MIGHT HURT SOMEONE I CARED FOR WAS HELL.
I LEFT HOME AS SOON AS I GOT BACK TO JAPAN. WHILE I WAS DRIFTING AIMLESSLY, I REALIZED...


...I PLANNED ON LEAVING HERE AS SOON AS YOU DIDN'T NEED ME ANYMORE.
THOSE KINDS OF RELATIONSHIPS WERE LIKE MEDICINE TO ME.
THAT'S WHY...



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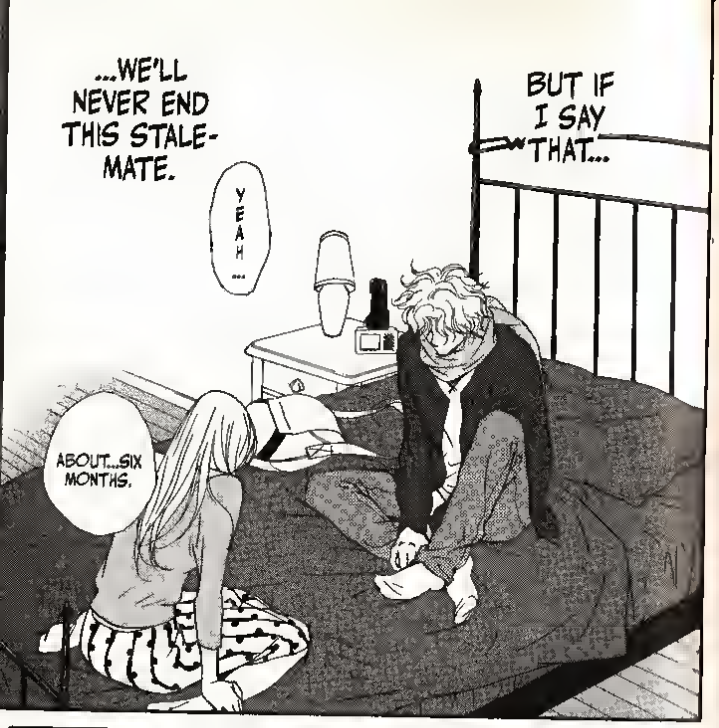

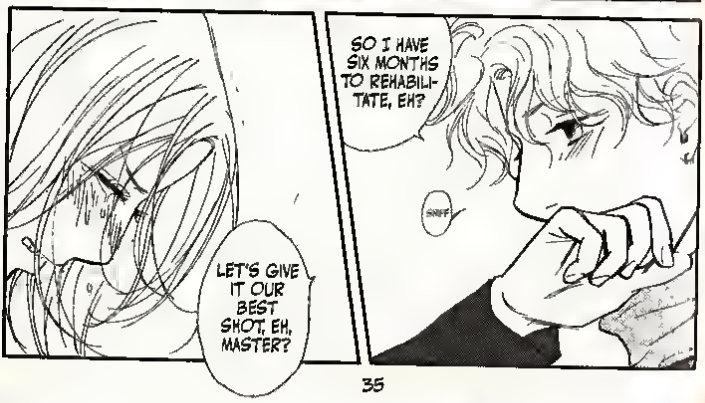

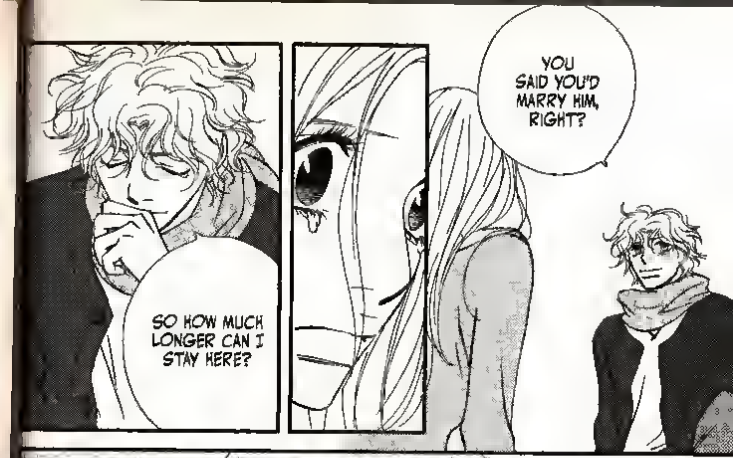

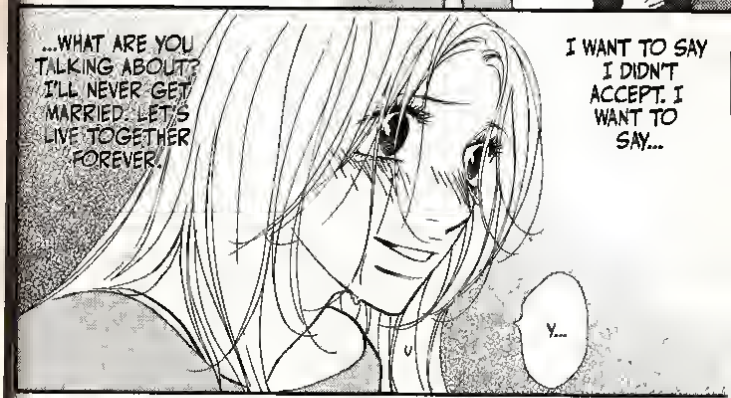

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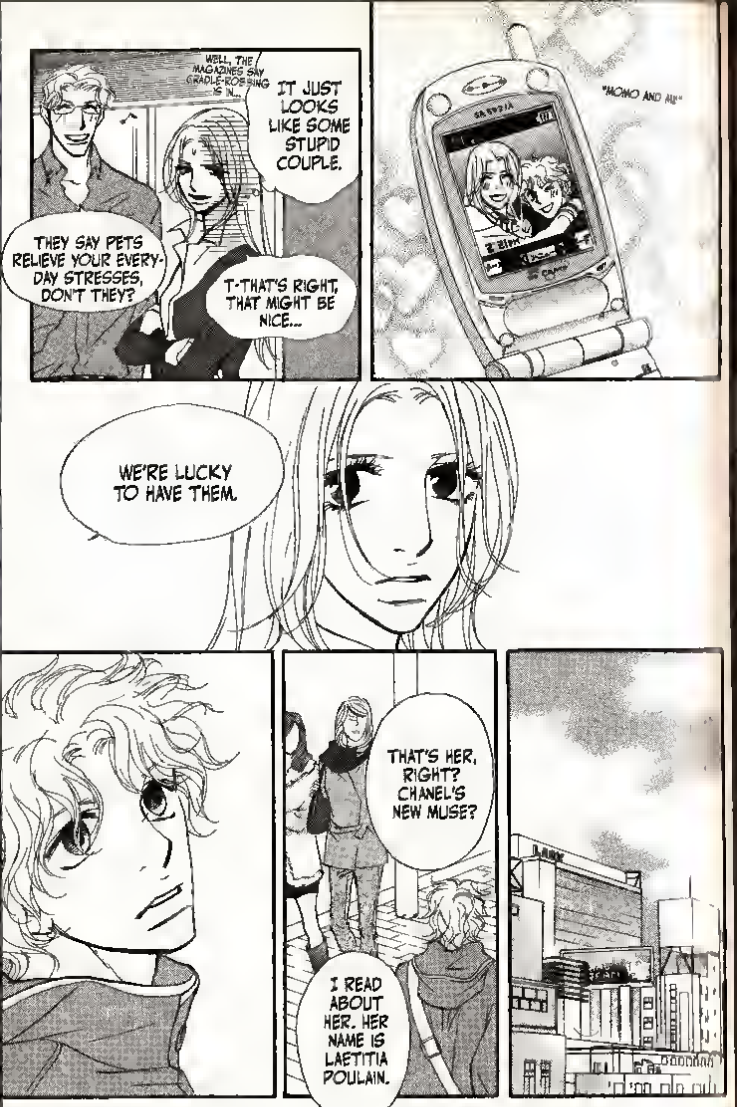
WELL, THE MAGAZINES SAY CRADLE-ROCKING IS IN...
IT JUST LOOKS LIKE SOME STUPID COUPLE.
THEY SAY PETS RELIEVE YOUR EVERY-DAY STRESSES, DON'T THEY?
T-THAT'S RIGHT, THAT MIGHT BE NICE...
"MOMO AND ME"
WE'RE LUCKY TO HAVE THEM.
THAT'S HER, RIGHT? CHANEL'S NEW MUSE?
I READ ABOUT HER. HER NAME IS LAETITIA POULAIN.

WHAT AM I ABOUT TO LOSE?
I KNOW I'VE BEEN CALLING HIM A PET UNTIL NOW...
A PIG?
I GOT A NEW PHONE WITH A CAMERA AND MADE THIS MY WALL-PAPER RIGHT AWAY.
CUTE, ISN'T IT?
BOSS! LOOK AT THIS!
"PINK AND ME"
ISN'T IT?
HOW ABOUT YOU, BOSS? DO YOU HAVE YOUR PET AS WALL-PAPER?
IT IS CUTE, ISN'T IT... THE PIG IS.

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Scans By
SkitzoMartyr

thank you so much IceSea and SkitzoMartyr
thanks to you
two we were
all able to
finish reading
Kimi Wa Petto
Scans By
SkitzoMartyr
IceSea

RULE 54:
ICE QUEEN

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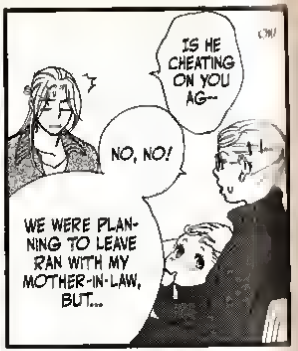
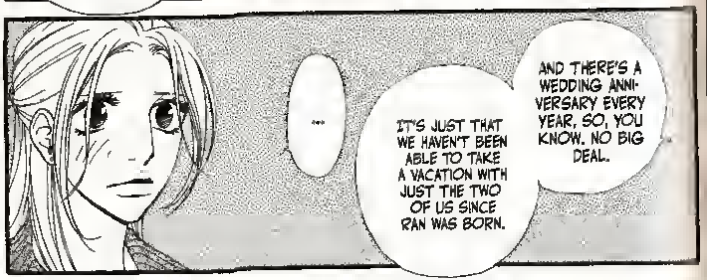
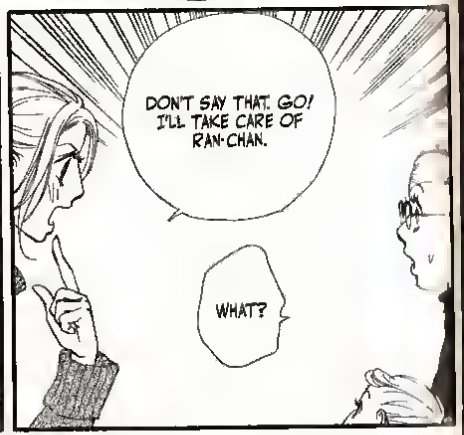
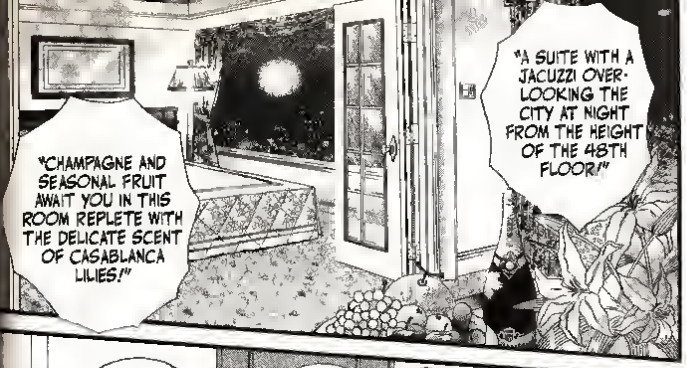
...CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? SHE GOT A SLIPPED DISK, WITH THAT FACE!
WE'RE TAKING TURNS TAKING CARE OF HER WITH MY SISTER-IN-LAW. SO THERE'S NO WAY SHE CAN WATCH RAN RIGHT NOW!
HER FACE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT, YOU KNOW.

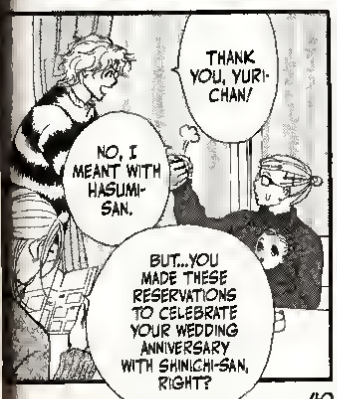



...
IT'S JUST THAT WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO TAKE A VACATION WITH JUST THE TWO OF US SINCE RAN WAS BORN.
AND THERE'S A WEDDING ANNIVERSARY EVERY YEAR. SO, YOU KNOW. NO BIG DEAL.




"A SUITE WITH A JACUZZI OVERLOOKING THE CITY AT NIGHT FROM THE HEIGHT OF THE 48TH FLOOR!"
"CHAMPAGNE AND SEASONAL FRUIT AWAIT YOU IN THIS ROOM REPLETE WITH THE DELICATE SCENT OF CASABLANCA LILIES!"

"SUPER MILLENNIUM SHOOTING STAR PLAN!"
NO ONE SAID ANYTHING ABOUT GOING WITH YOU.
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, WHY DOES IT SAY "MILLENNIUM"?
JUST BECAUSE IT SOUNDS COOL?
EEK! IT'S LIKE YOU'D HAVE TO GET MARRIED AFTER THIS!!


THANK YOU, YURI-CHAN!
NO, I MEANT WITH HASUMI-SAN.
BUT...YOU MADE THESE RESERVATIONS TO CELEBRATE YOUR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY WITH SHINICHI-SAN, RIGHT?

BUT IT SEEMS LIKE A WASTE TO CANCEL IT AND SO I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU COULD USE IT, IF YOU WERE FREE.
I KNOW IT'S SHORT NOTICE BECAUSE IT'S THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.

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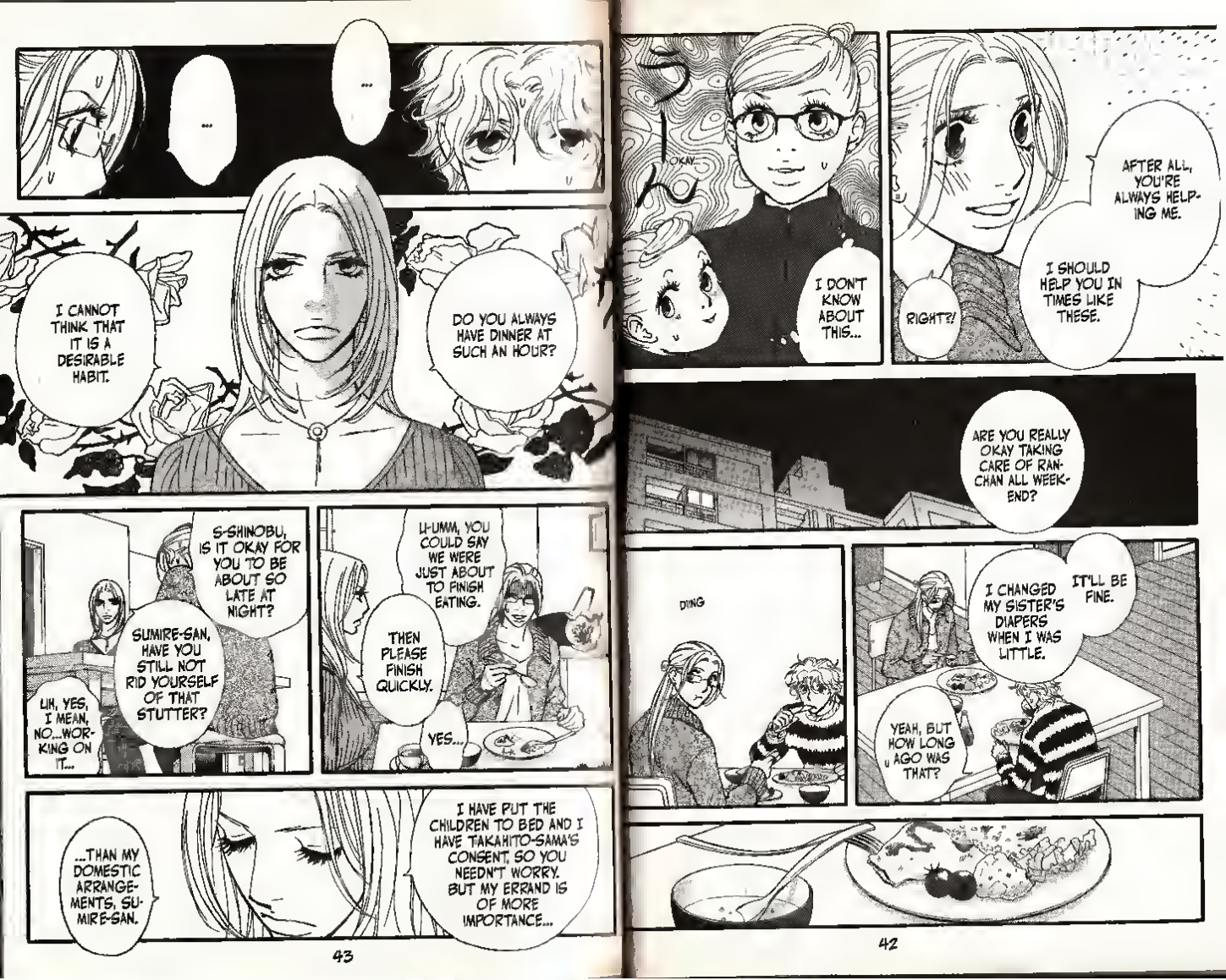
OKAY...
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS...
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE ALWAYS HELPING ME.
I SHOULD HELP YOU IN TIMES LIKE THESE.
RIGHT?!
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY TAKING CARE OF RAN-CHAN ALL WEEKEND?
DING
I CHANGED MY SISTER'S DIAPERS WHEN I WAS LITTLE.
IT'LL BE FINE.
YEAH, BUT HOW LONG AGO WAS THAT?
...
...
I CANNOT THINK THAT IT IS A DESIRABLE HABIT.
DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE DINNER AT SUCH AN HOUR?
S-SHINOBU, IS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO BE ABOUT SO LATE AT NIGHT?
SUMIRE-SAN, HAVE YOU STILL NOT RID YOURSELF OF THAT STUTTER?
UH, YES, I MEAN, NO...WORKING ON IT...
UHUMM, YOU COULD SAY WE WERE JUST ABOUT TO FINISH EATING.
THEN PLEASE FINISH QUICKLY.
YES...
I HAVE PUT THE CHILDREN TO BED AND I HAVE TAKAHITO-SAMA'S CONSENT, SO YOU NEEDN'T WORRY. BUT MY ERRAND IS OF MORE IMPORTANCE...
...THAN MY DOMESTIC ARRANGEMENTS, SUMIRE-SAN.

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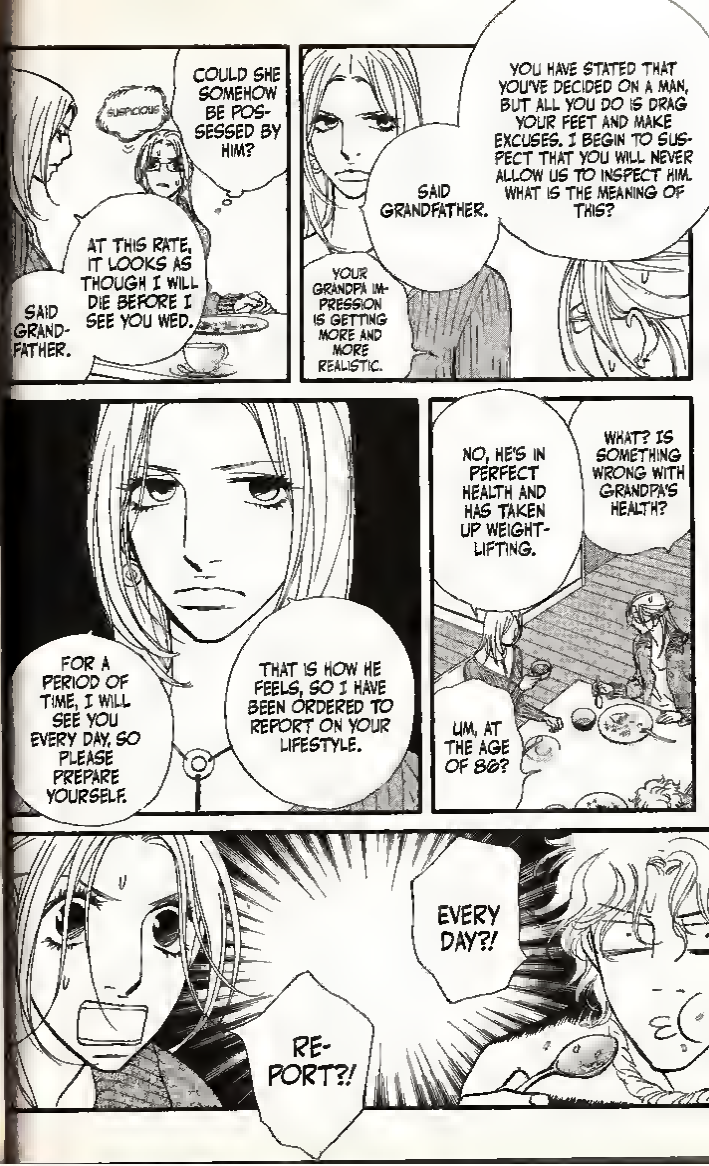
NO, NO, THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK!
DO YOU OBJECT?
EXHAUSTED...
YOU DON'T THINK SHINOBU WILL EXPOSE YOU, DO YOU?
IF SHE WERE GOING TO TELL, SHE WOULD HAVE DONE IT A LONG TIME AGO, RIGHT?
SHE'S KEPT QUIET UNTIL NOW, SO I THINK IT'S ALL RIGHT.
ARE YOU OKAY? SUMIRE-CHAN?
I'M NOT OKAY.
I THINK I'M GOING TO SNAP.
A GOOD PERSON.
SHE'S KIND OF (NO, VERY) SCARY, BUT SHE'S LIKE YOU.


SUSPICIOUS
COULD SHE SOMEHOW BE POSSESSED BY HIM?
AT THIS RATE, IT LOOKS AS THOUGH I WILL DIE BEFORE I SEE YOU WED.
SAID GRANDFATHER.
YOU HAVE STATED THAT YOU'VE DECIDED ON A MAN, BUT ALL YOU DO IS DRAG YOUR FEET AND MAKE EXCUSES. I BEGIN TO SUSPECT THAT YOU WILL NEVER ALLOW US TO INSPECT HIM. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?
SAID GRANDFATHER.
YOUR GRANDPA IMPRESSION IS GETTING MORE AND MORE REALISTIC.
FOR A PERIOD OF TIME, I WILL SEE YOU EVERY DAY, SO PLEASE PREPARE YOURSELF.
THAT IS HOW HE FEELS, SO I HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO REPORT ON YOUR LIFESTYLE.
NO, HE'S IN PERFECT HEALTH AND HAS TAKEN UP WEIGHT-LIFTING.
WHAT? IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH GRANDPA'S HEALTH?
UM, AT THE AGE OF 80?
EVERY DAY?!
RE-PORT?!

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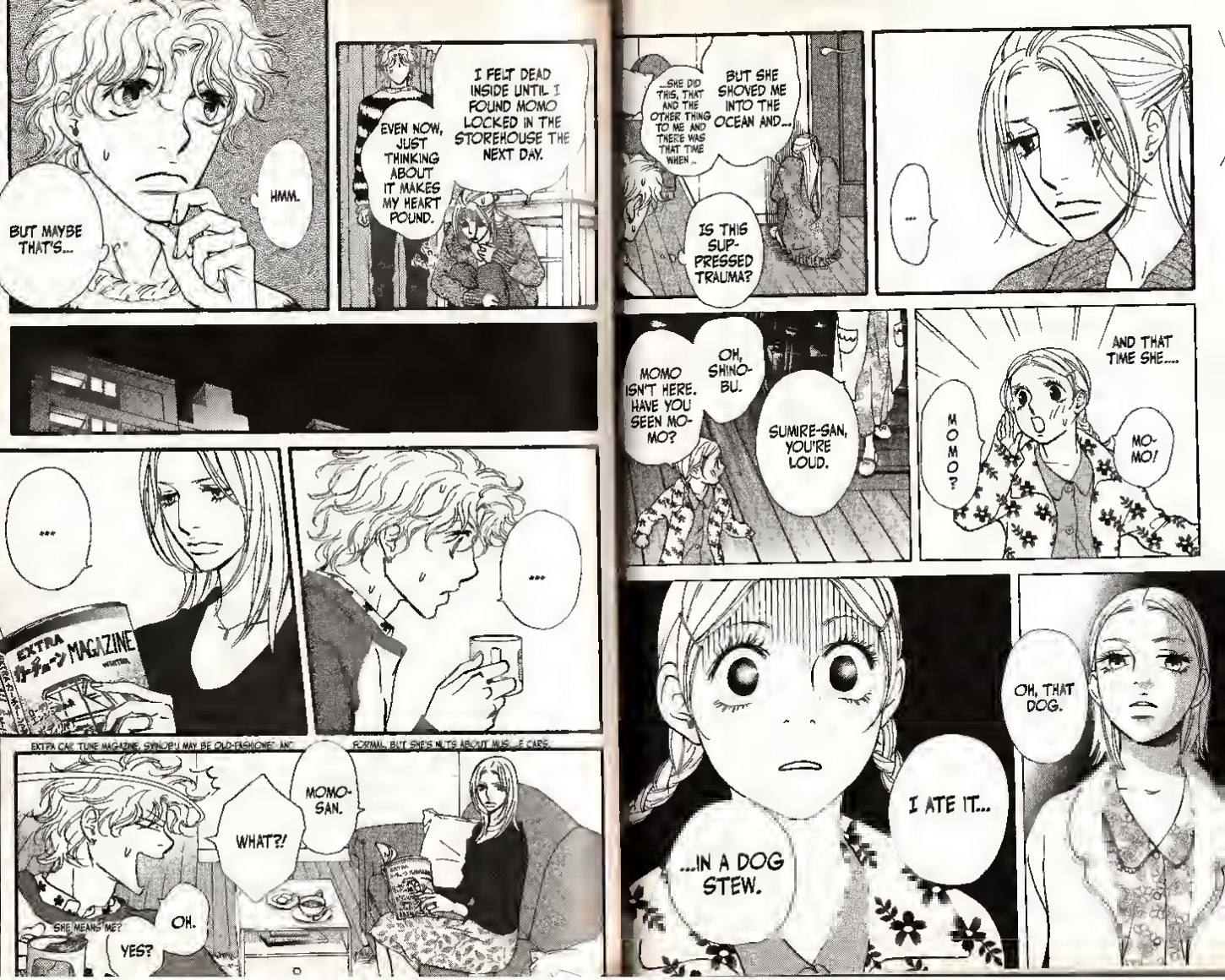
BUT MAYBE THAT'S...
HMM.
EVEN NOW, JUST THINKING ABOUT IT MAKES MY HEART POUND.
I FELT DEAD INSIDE UNTIL I FOUND MOMO LOCKED IN THE STOREHOUSE THE NEXT DAY.
...SHE DID THIS, THAT AND THE OTHER THING TO ME AND THERE WAS THAT TIME WHEN...
BUT SHE SHOVED ME INTO THE OCEAN AND...
IS THIS SUP-PRESSED TRAUMA?
...
MOMO ISN'T HERE. HAVE YOU SEEN MO-MO?
OH, SHINO-BU.
SUMIRE-SAN, YOU'RE LOUD.
AND THAT TIME SHE....
MOMO?
MO-MO!
...
EXTRA
MAGAZINE
...
EXTRA CAR TUNE MAGAZINE, SYNOPU MAY BE OLD-FASHIONED, AN
FORMAL, BUT SHE'S NUTS ABOUT MUS E CARS.
MOMO-SAN.
WHAT?!
OH.
SHE MEANS ME?
YES?
I ATE IT...
...IN A DOG STEW.
OH, THAT DOG.

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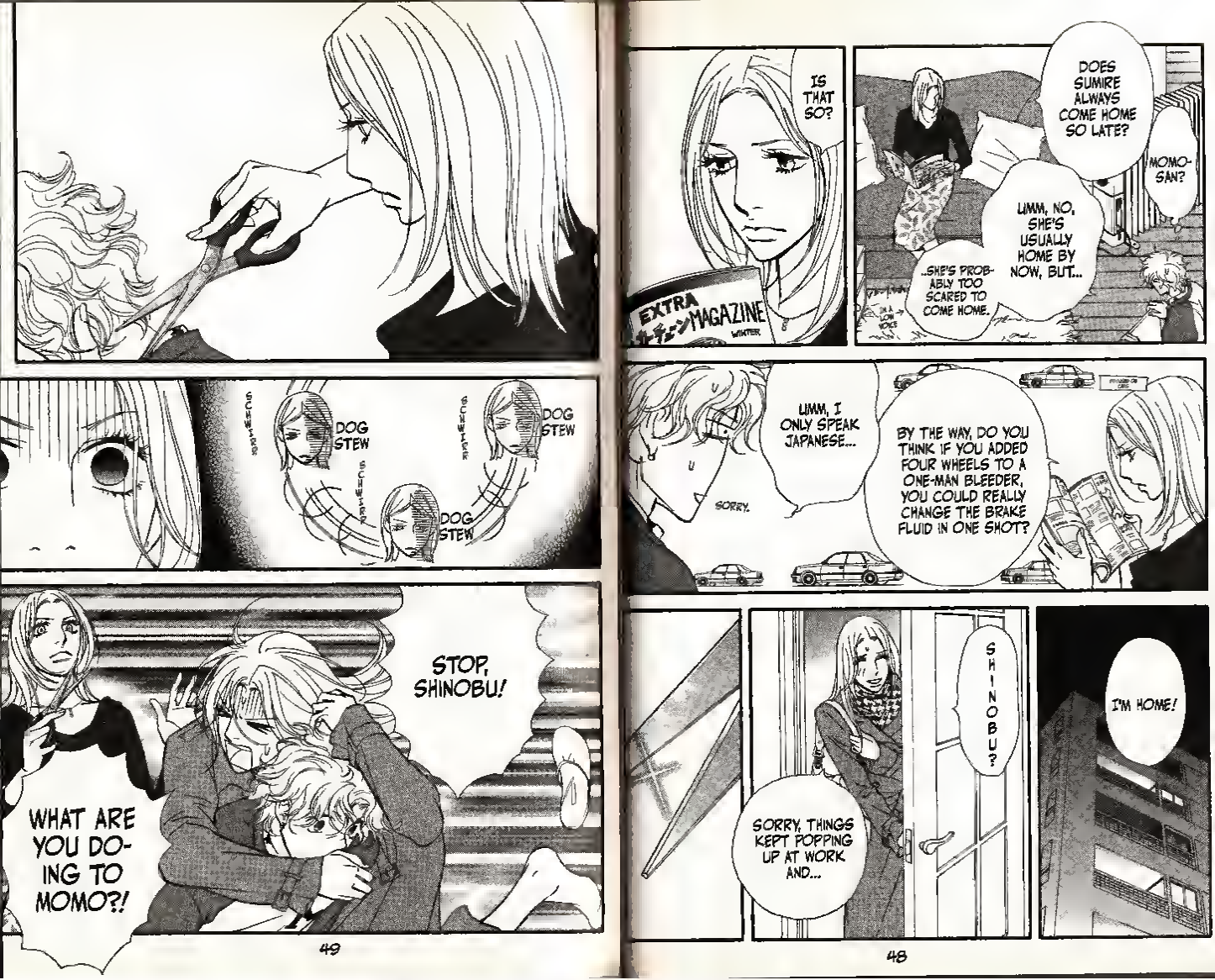
I'M HOME!
SHINOBU?
SORRY, THINGS KEPT POPPING UP AT WORK AND...
BY THE WAY, DO YOU THINK IF YOU ADDED FOUR WHEELS TO A ONE-MAN BLEEDER, YOU COULD REALLY CHANGE THE BRAKE FLUID IN ONE SHOT?
UMM, I ONLY SPEAK JAPANESE...
SORRY.
DOES SUMIRE ALWAYS COME HOME SO LATE?
MOMO-SAN?
UMM, NO, SHE'S USUALLY HOME BY NOW, BUT...
..SHE'S PROBABLY TOO SCARED TO COME HOME.
IS THAT SO?
EXTRA
WINTER
DOG STEW
DOG STEW
DOG STEW
STOP, SHINOBU!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MOMO?!

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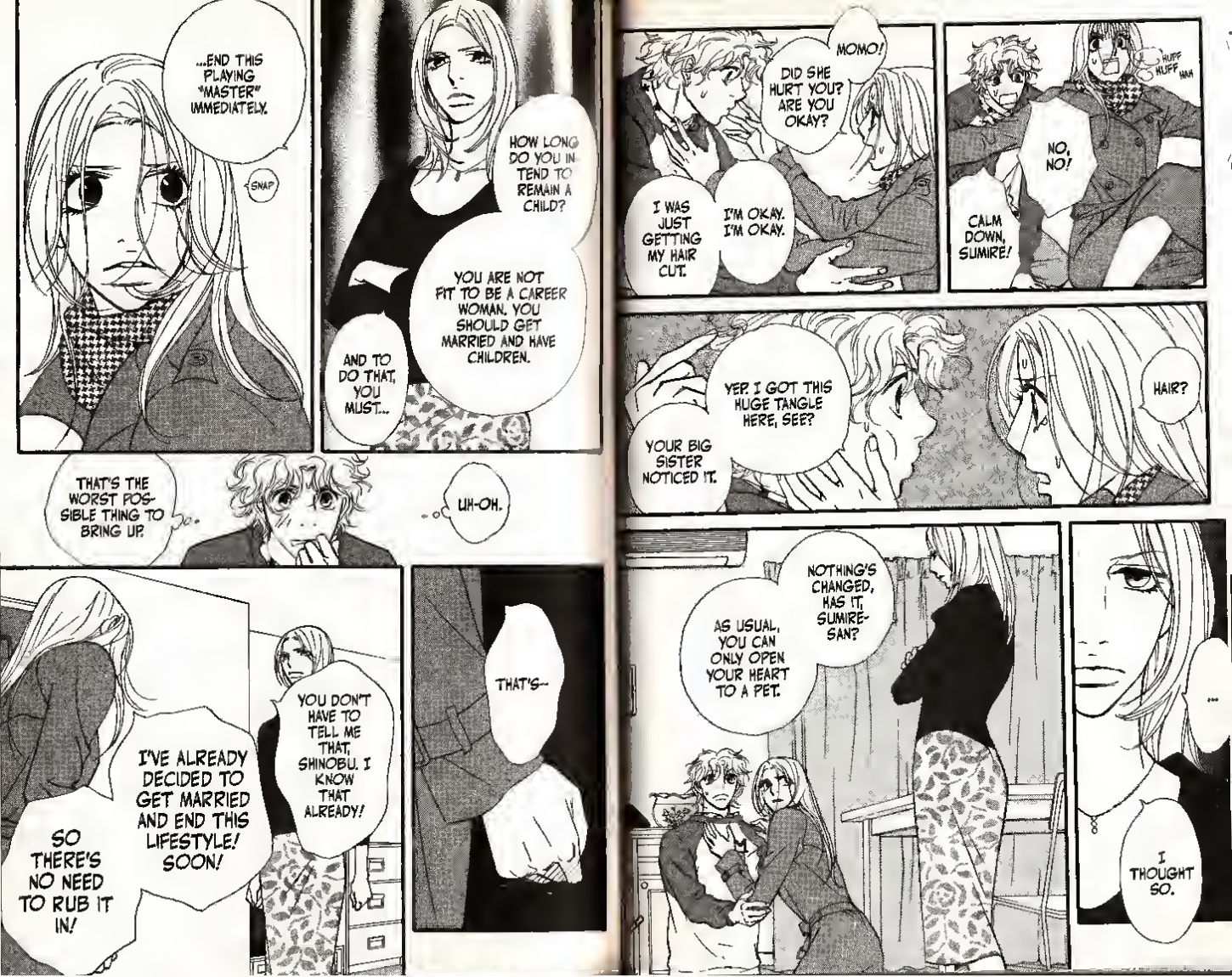
...END THIS PLAYING "MASTER" IMMEDIATELY.
SNAP
HOW LONG DO YOU INTEND TO REMAIN A CHILD?
YOU ARE NOT FIT TO BE A CAREER WOMAN. YOU SHOULD GET MARRIED AND HAVE CHILDREN.
AND TO DO THAT, YOU MUST...
THAT'S THE WORST POSSIBLE THING TO BRING UP.
UH-OH.
SO THERE'S NO NEED TO RUB IT IN!
I'VE ALREADY DECIDED TO GET MARRIED AND END THIS LIFESTYLE! SOON!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME THAT, SHINOBU. I KNOW THAT ALREADY!
THAT'S--
MOMO!
DID SHE HURT YOU? ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M OKAY. I'M OKAY.
I WAS JUST GETTING MY HAIR CUT.
HUFF HUFF HAH
NO, NO!
CALM DOWN, SUMIRE!
HAIR?
YEP. I GOT THIS HUGE TANGLE HERE, SEE?
YOUR BIG SISTER NOTICED IT.
NOTHING'S CHANGED, HAS IT, SUMIRE-SAN?
AS USUAL, YOU CAN ONLY OPEN YOUR HEART TO A PET.
...
I THOUGHT SO.

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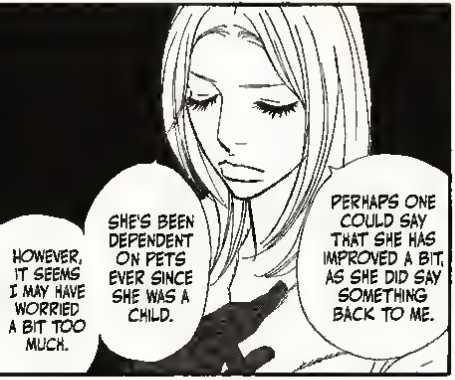
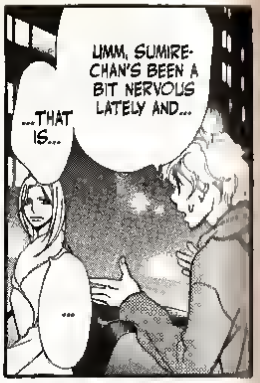
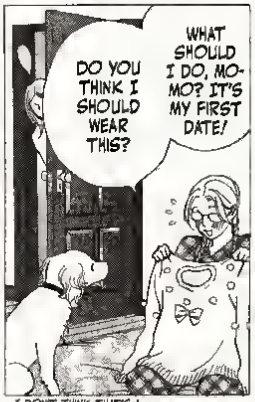
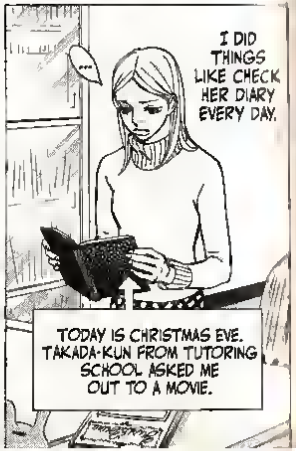
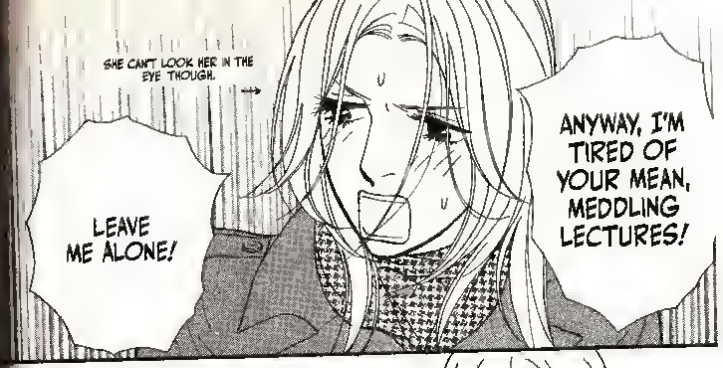

HOWEVER, IT SEEMS I MAY HAVE WORRIED A BIT TOO MUCH.
SHE'S BEEN DEPENDENT ON PETS EVER SINCE SHE WAS A CHILD.
PERHAPS ONE COULD SAY THAT SHE HAS IMPROVED A BIT, AS SHE DID SAY SOMETHING BACK TO ME.

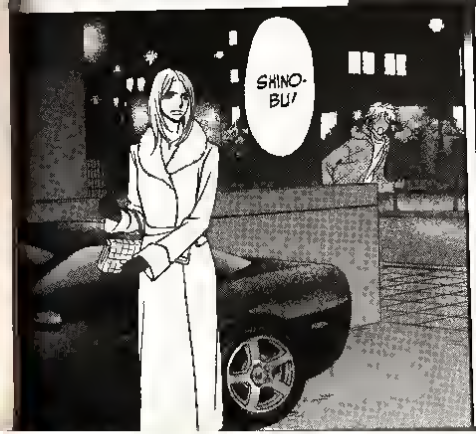


THAT COULD BE SO. I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN INTRIGUED BY THAT CHILD.
...BECAUSE YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT SUMIRE-CHAN, RIGHT?
BACK THEN, YOU HID THE DOG MOMO...









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...SUMIRE-CHAN WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND THAT.
SHE REALLY CARES ABOUT HER LITTLE SISTER, BUT...
IT MAY HAVE BEEN MEAN AND MEDDLING...
...
ISN'T RAN-CHAN COMING OVER TODAY?
HMM? I DON'T HAVE TO GO TO WORK TODAY, SILLY.
SUMIRE-CHAN, WAKE UP! WAKE UP!
I THOUGHT SO
OH NO! I FORGOT!!!

SHE PROBABLY CAUGHT A COLD OR SOMETHING.
SUMIRE'S LOCKED HERSELF IN HER ROOM SINCE SHE CAME HOME.
OH, I'LL JUST SNEAK...
...A BIT OF SHINOBU'S PERFUME. ♡
TAKADA-KUN TRIED TO TAKE ME INTO A LOVE HOTEL! I CAN'T TRUST BOYS ANYMORE.
SCARY...!
WOW.
IT SEEMS THAT A MIDDLE-SCHOOL BOY FROM A NEIGHBORING TOWN WAS ATTACKED BY A GANG MEMBER WITH A JAPANESE SWORD.

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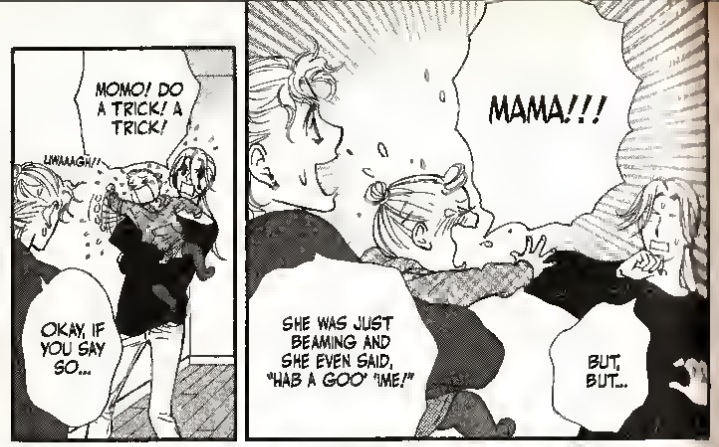
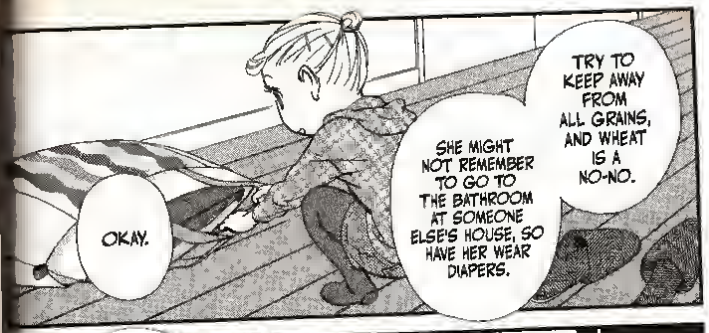
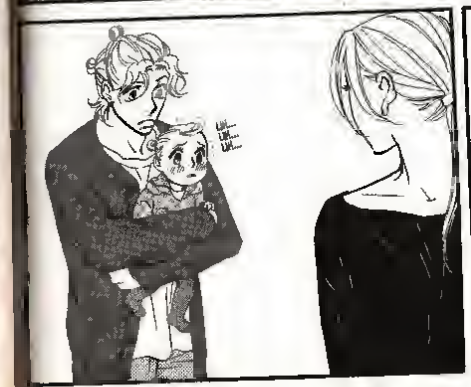



OKAY.
SHE MIGHT NOT REMEMBER TO GO TO THE BATHROOM AT SOMEONE ELSE'S HOUSE, SO HAVE HER WEAR DIAPERS.
TRY TO KEEP AWAY FROM ALL GRAINS, AND WHEAT IS A NO-NO.



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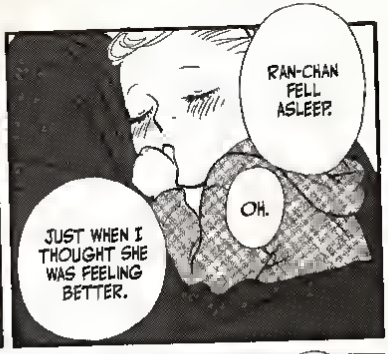
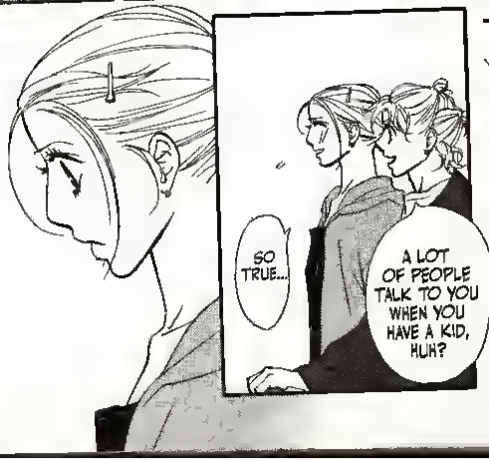


EXCUSE ME, IS THERE A BUS STOP AROUND HERE?
GO OUT THE EXIT ON THE OTHER SIDE AND YOU'LL SEE IT. IT'S IN FRONT OF THE BAKERY ON THE RIGHT.



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COME TO THINK OF IT, MY BIG SISTER'S YOUNGEST IS ABOUT THE SAME AGE.
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, HOW IS YOUR SISTER?
IT'S PRETTY HARD WORK, EH? TAKING CARE OF A TWO-YEAR-OLD?
SEVEN, EIGHT...
IT IS. I SO RESPECT YOU NOW, YURI-CHAN.
THE SAME...TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I SNAPPED AND WE HAD A MINI-FIGHT AND...
IN JAPAN, IT'S NOT UNUSUAL TO LEAVE THE TUB FULL OF HOT WATER WHEN IT'S NOT BEING USED
WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW. I'LL TELL YOU THE DETAILS ANOTHER TIME.
GO HAVE FUN! TELL SHINICHI-SAN I SAID HI.
RAN-CHAN FELL INTO THE TUB!!
WHAT?!
AAHH!
WHAT?
G-N-I-R-R-W
W-W-W-WHY--
BUT THAT'S--
MAYBE YOU SHOULD CALL AN AMBU-LANCE!
WAAH! SHINOBU, WHAT SHOULD I DO?!
HELLO? SUMIRE-SAN?
I'M NEARBY, SO I'M COMING OVER.

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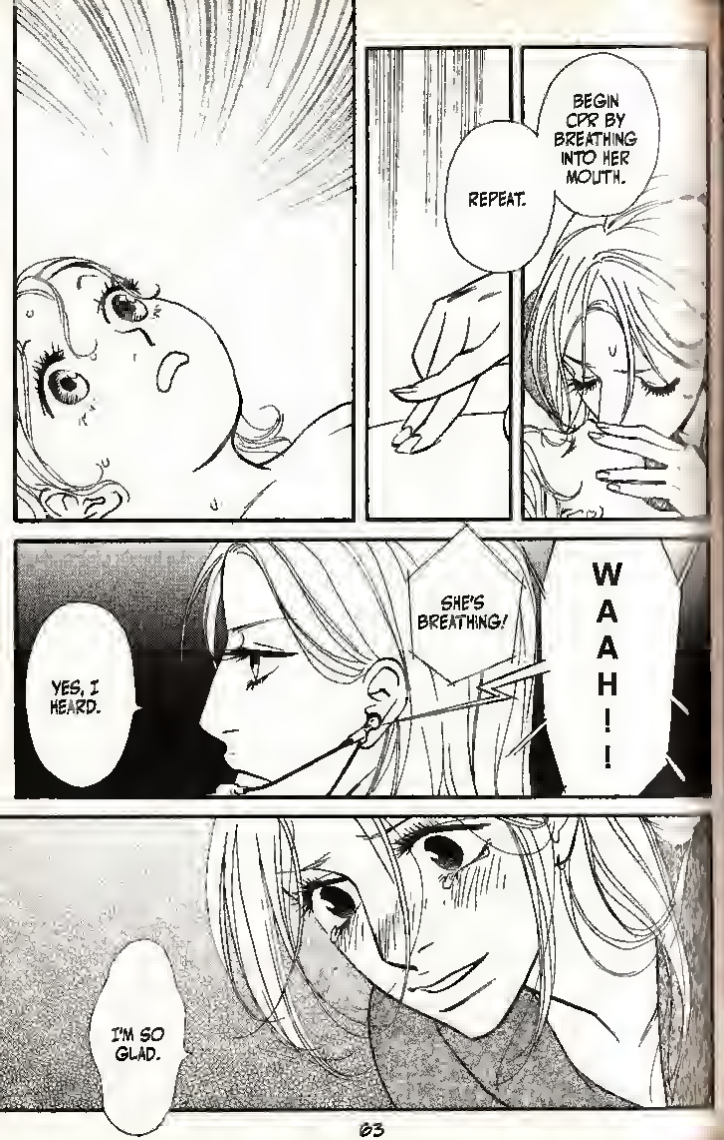

I CAN'T TALK TO YOU WHILE YOU'RE HYSTERICAL. LET ME TALK TO THE YOUNG MAN.
MOMO-SAN??
BEFORE YOU CALL AN AMBULANCE, HAVE SUMIRE DO AS I TELL YOU.
MY FRIEND'S KID WAS IN THE BATHTUB AND--
I...IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S NOT BREATHING!
CHILD? HOW OLD?
TWO... NO, NO, ALMOST THREE YEARS.
SHE MAY NOT HAVE SWALLOWED ANY WATER. NEXT...
LAY HER ON HER BACK AND PLACE THE POINTER FINGER OF YOUR RIGHT HAND IN THE CENTER OF HER CHEST
NO.
LAY HER ON HER SIDE AND PUT YOUR FINGER DEEP IN HER MOUTH AND...
...DID SHE COUGH UP WATER?
...JUST LIKE THAT, PUT YOUR MIDDLE AND RING FINGERS DOWN AND HAVE YOUR POINTER FINGER HOVER OVER AND...
...PRESS STRAIGHT DOWN AT THE RATE OF TWICE A SECOND.

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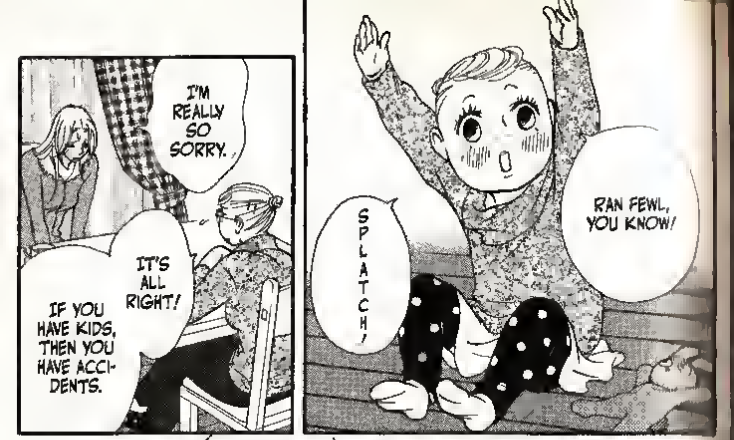
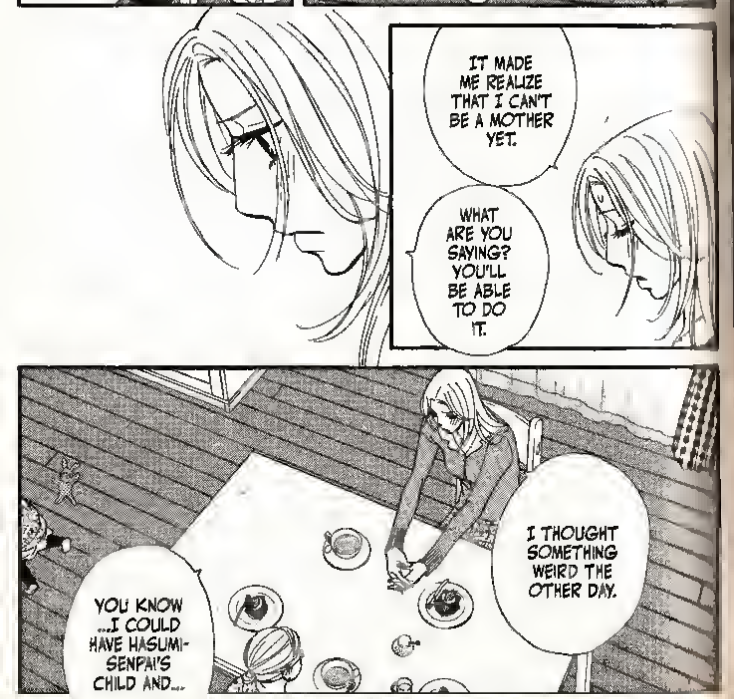
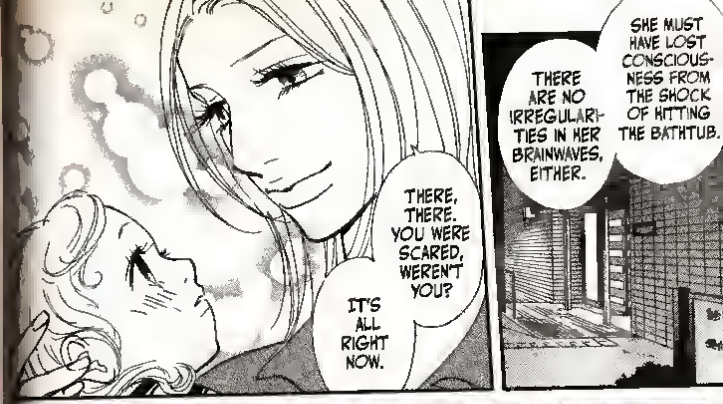
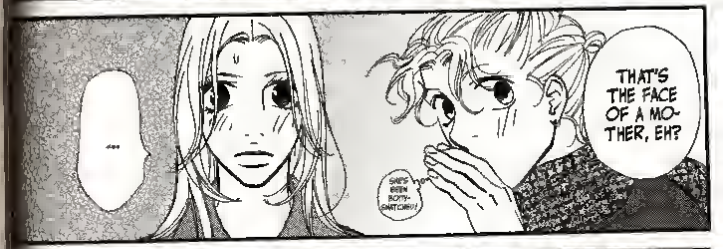
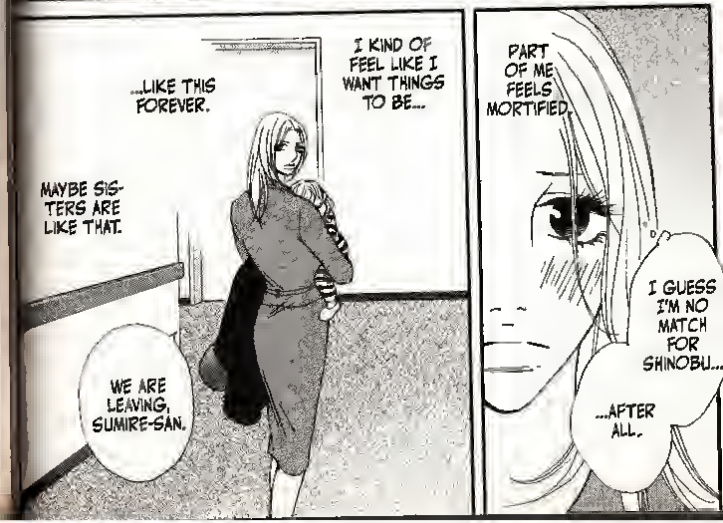



IT MADE ME REALIZE THAT I CAN'T BE A MOTHER YET.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO IT.
YOU KNOW ...I COULD HAVE HASUMI-SENPAI'S CHILD AND...
I THOUGHT SOMETHING WEIRD THE OTHER DAY.


THERE, THERE. YOU WERE SCARED, WEREN'T YOU?
IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW.
SHE MUST HAVE LOST CONSCIOUSNESS FROM THE SHOCK OF HITTING THE BATHTUB.
THERE ARE NO IRREGULARITIES IN HER BRAINWAVES, EITHER.




...LIKE THIS FOREVER.
I KIND OF FEEL LIKE I WANT THINGS TO BE...
MAYBE SISTERS ARE LIKE THAT.
WE ARE LEAVING, SUMIRE-SAN.
PART OF ME FEELS MORTIFIED.
I GUESS I'M NO MATCH FOR SHINOBU...
...AFTER ALL.

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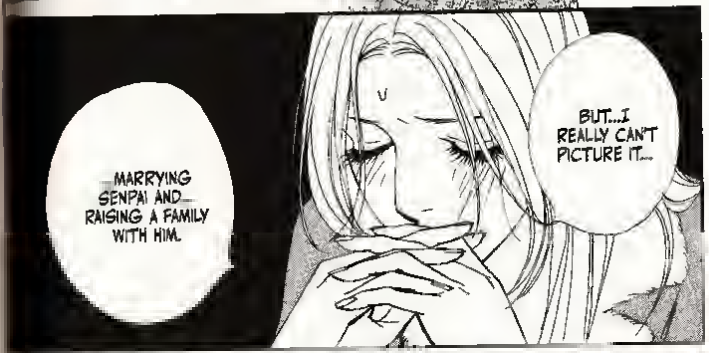
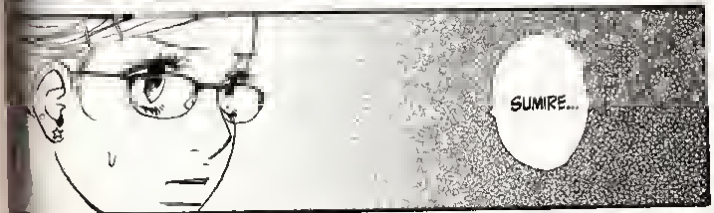
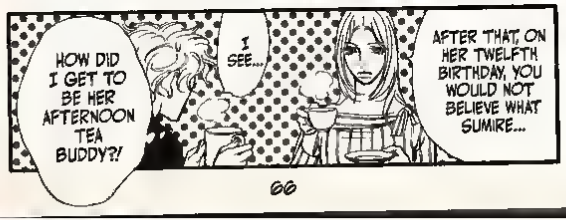
I ONLY THOUGHT IT/ I KNOW ALREADY/ IT'S REALLY STUPID/
YOU KNOW, THAT'S--
CALM DOWN. I'M NOT THINKING OF DOING THAT.
...I COULD RAISE IT WITH JUST MOMO AND ME.







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Scans By
SkitzoMartyr

Scans By

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RULE 55:
WOMAN OF THE CANCER SIGN

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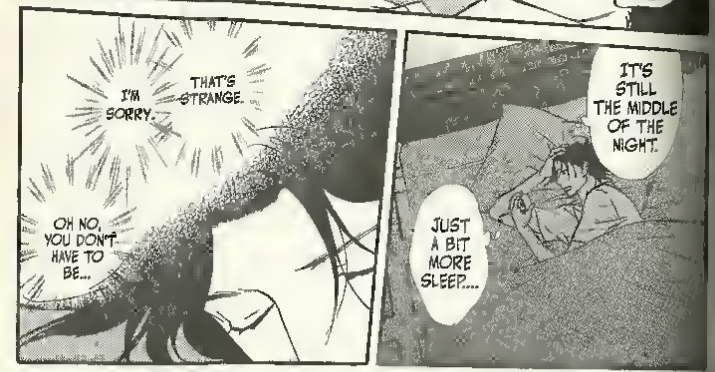

I DREAMED OF YOU...
...SHINING PURE AND WHITE, IN THE DRESS MEANT FOR THE DAY WE ARE TO WED.
IT WAS YOU...
...YET ALSO SOME LONELY SOMEONE ELSE.

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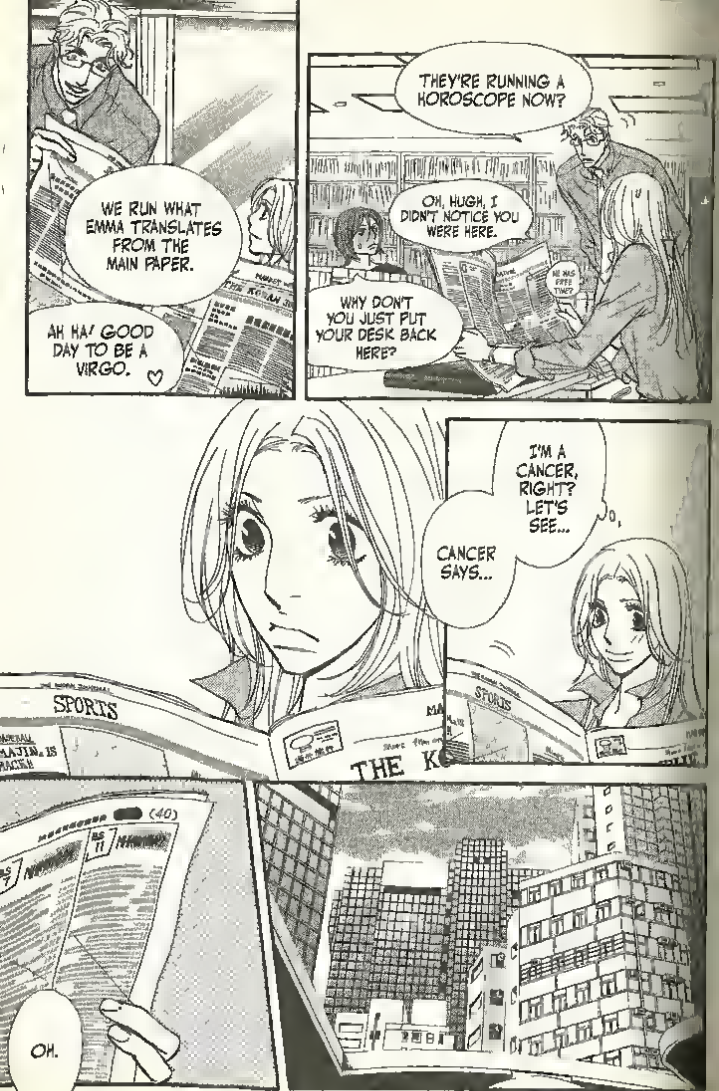
WE RUN WHAT EMMA TRANSLATES FROM THE MAIN PAPER.
AH HA! GOOD DAY TO BE A VIRGO. ♡
THEY'RE RUNNING A HOROSCOPE NOW?
OH, HUGH, I DIDN'T NOTICE YOU WERE HERE.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST PUT YOUR DESK BACK HERE?
I'M A CANCER, RIGHT? LET'S SEE...
CANCER SAYS...
SPORTS
STOCKS
OH.

AH...
BUT...
...SOON I WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE HIM BREAK-FAST.
I'M HUNGRY! FOOD!!
YOU'VE GOT SO MUCH ENERGY, IT'S LIKE YOU'RE HIGH ON DRUGS, FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.
NOT A MORNING PERSON
I SAID SHUT UP.
I'LL MAKE IT RIGHT AWAY, BREAKFAST
NOTHING...
WHAT'S WRONG?
HAVE YOU SEEN THE HOROSCOPES IN THE PAPER?
OH, IT STARTED TO-DAY. LET'S SEE...

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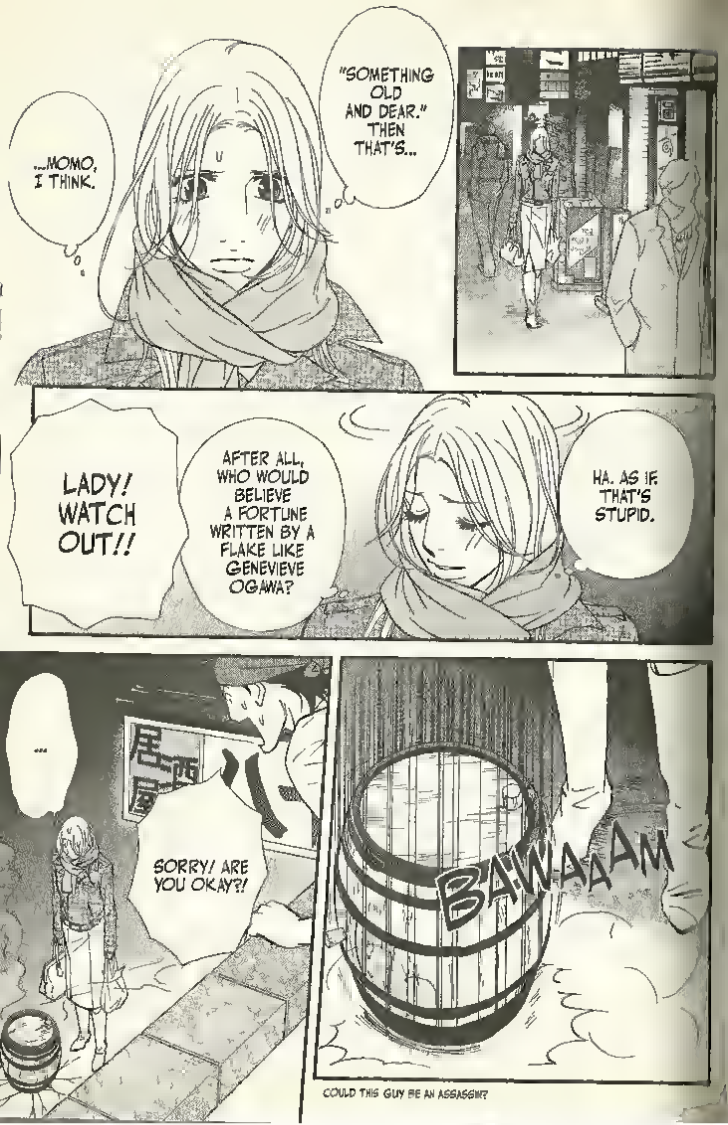
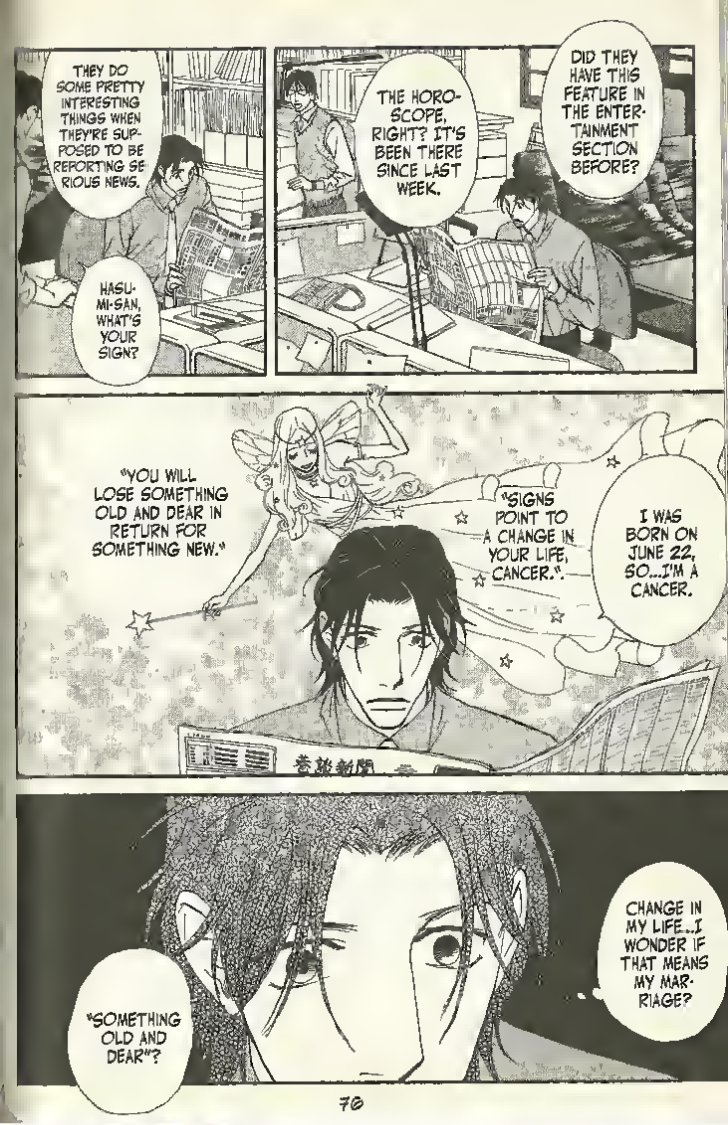

...MOMO, I THINK.
"SOMETHING OLD AND DEAR." THEN THAT'S...
LADY! WATCH OUT!!
AFTER ALL, WHO WOULD BELIEVE A FORTUNE WRITTEN BY A FLAKE LIKE GENEVIEVE OGAWA?
HA. AS IF. THAT'S STUPID.
...
SORRY! ARE YOU OKAY?!
BAWAAAM
COULD THIS GUY BE AN ASSASSIN?


THEY DO SOME PRETTY INTERESTING THINGS WHEN THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE REPORTING SERIOUS NEWS.
HASUMI-SAN, WHAT'S YOUR SIGN?
THE HOROSCOPE, RIGHT? IT'S BEEN THERE SINCE LAST WEEK.
DID THEY HAVE THIS FEATURE IN THE ENTERTAINMENT SECTION BEFORE?
"YOU WILL LOSE SOMETHING OLD AND DEAR IN RETURN FOR SOMETHING NEW."
"SIGNS POINT TO A CHANGE IN YOUR LIFE, CANCER.".
I WAS BORN ON JUNE 22, SO...I'M A CANCER.
"SOMETHING OLD AND DEAR"?
CHANGE IN MY LIFE...I WONDER IF THAT MEANS MY MARRIAGE?

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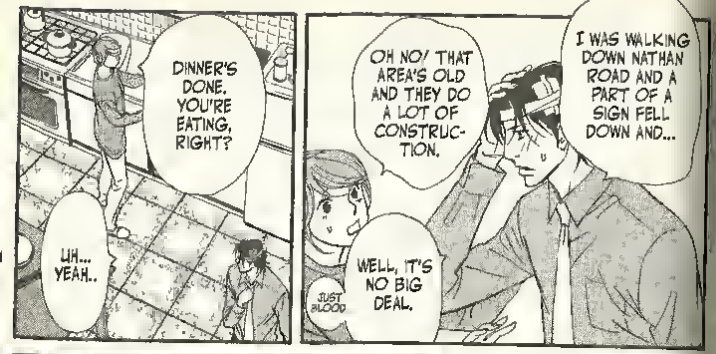
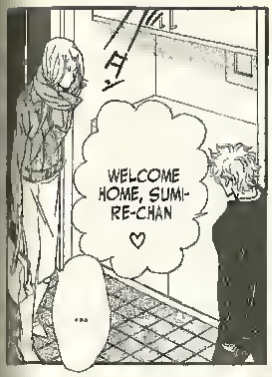
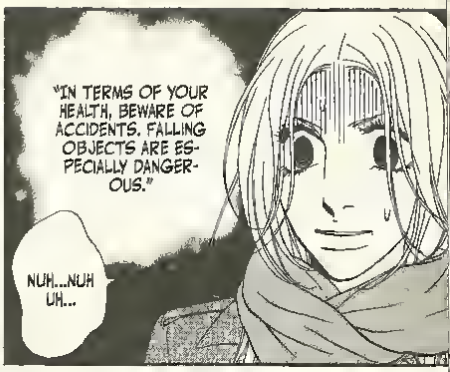

DINNER'S DONE. YOU'RE EATING, RIGHT?
UH... YEAH..
I WAS WALKING DOWN NATHAN ROAD AND A PART OF A SIGN FELL DOWN AND...
OH NO! THAT AREA'S OLD AND THEY DO A LOT OF CONSTRUCTION.
WELL, IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
JUST BLOOD





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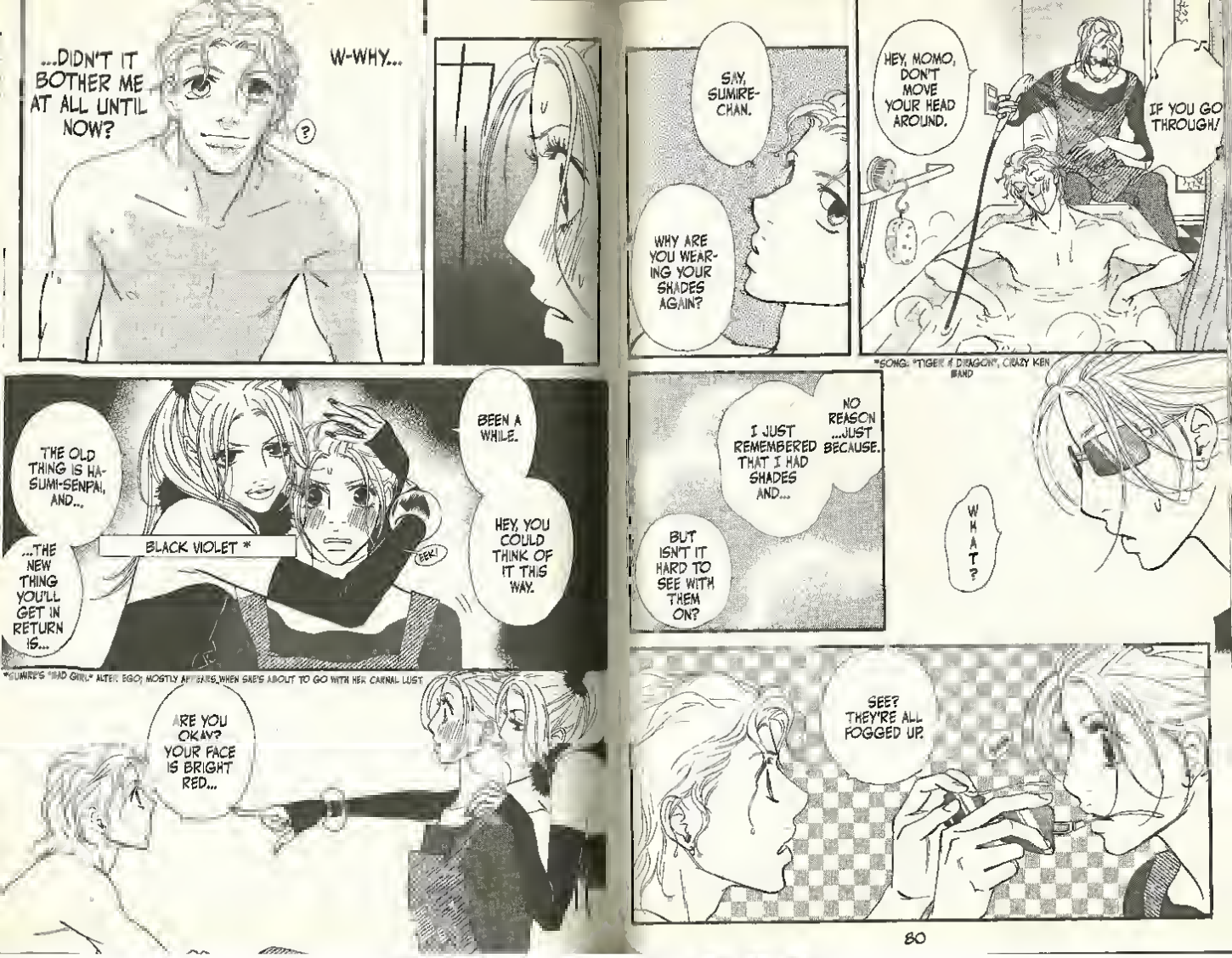
...DIDN'T IT BOTHER ME AT ALL UNTIL NOW?
W-WHY...
SAY, SUMIRE-CHAN.
WHY ARE YOU WEARING YOUR SHADES AGAIN?
HEY, MOMO, DON'T MOVE YOUR HEAD AROUND.
IF YOU GO THROUGH!
*SONG: "TIGER & DRAGON", CRAZY KEN BAND
NO REASON ...JUST BECAUSE.
I JUST REMEMBERED THAT I HAD SHADES AND...
BUT ISN'T IT HARD TO SEE WITH THEM ON?
WHAT?
BEEN A WHILE.
HEY, YOU COULD THINK OF IT THIS WAY.
THE OLD THING IS HASUMI-SENPAI, AND...
...THE NEW THING YOU'LL GET IN RETURN IS...
BLACK VIOLET *
EEK!
*SUMIRE'S "BAD GIRL" ALTER EGO; MOSTLY APPEARS WHEN SHE'S ABOUT TO GO WITH HER CARNAL LUST
ARE YOU OKAY? YOUR FACE IS BRIGHT RED...
SEE? THEY'RE ALL FOGGED UP.

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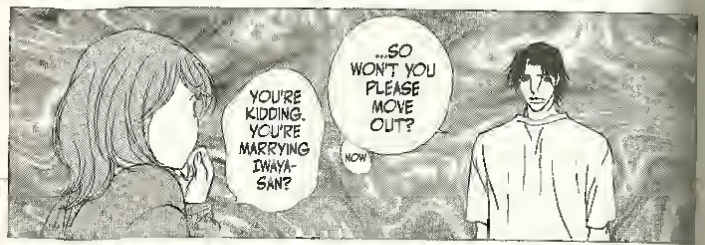
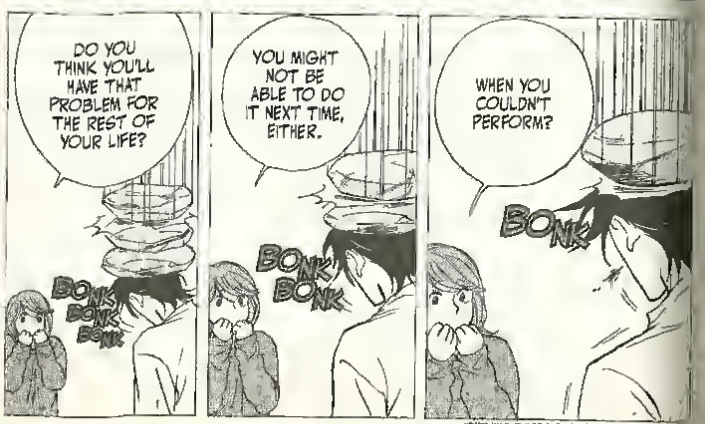
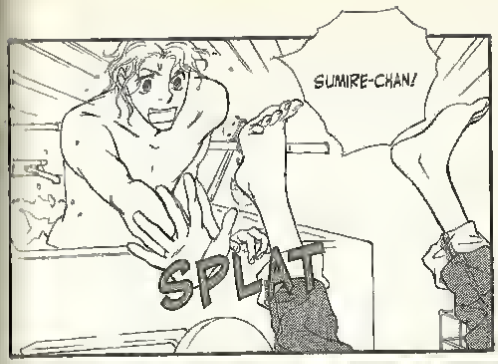
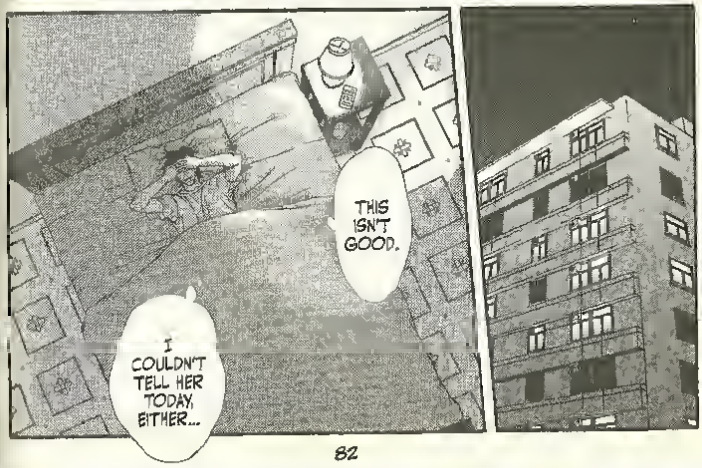
...I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT SHE'D JUST LEAVE BECAUSE I SAID SO.
IN THE FIRST PLACE, EVEN IF I SAID "PLEASE MOVE OUT, BECAUSE I'M GETTING MARRIED"...




DO YOU THINK YOU'LL HAVE THAT PROBLEM FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?
BONK BONK BONK BONK
YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO DO IT NEXT TIME, EITHER.
BONK BONK BONK
WHEN YOU COULDN'T PERFORM?
BONK





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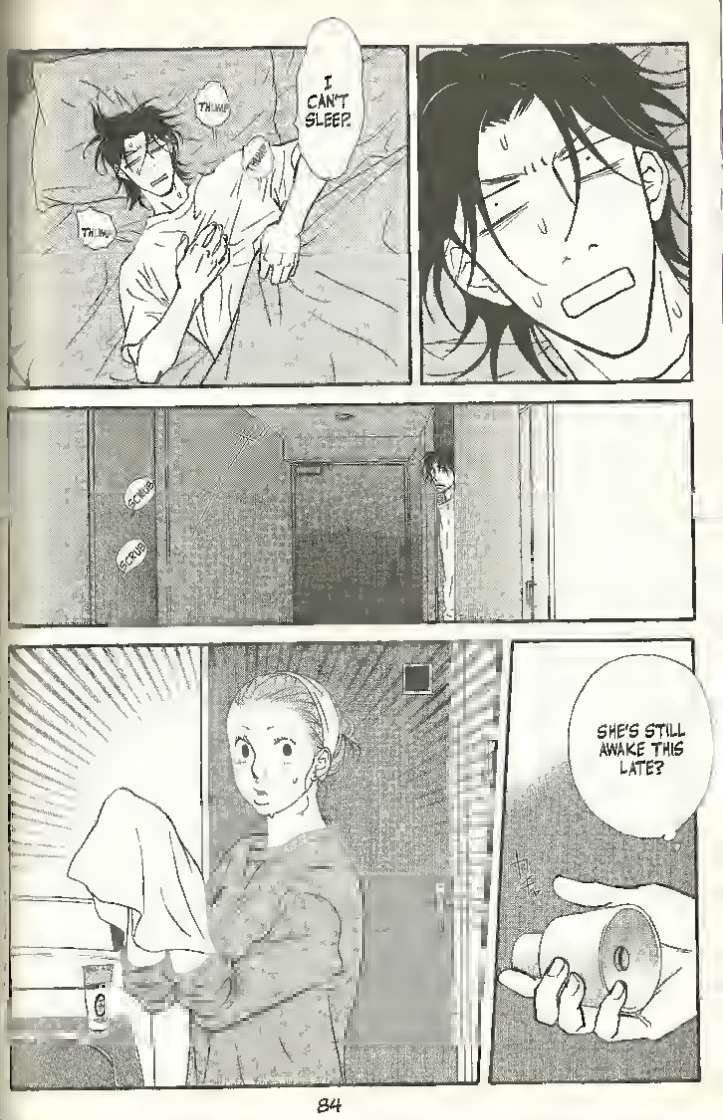
WHA... WHA?
WHY'D YOU WAKE UP?!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE ASLEEP! REALLY!
EEEEK!
I JUST DON'T WANT YOU TO SEE MY FACE WITHOUT MAKEUP.
DON'T LOOK AT ME ANYMORE.
I'M FINE, SO GET OUT ALREADY!
WHAT'S WRONG? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO YOUR FACE?



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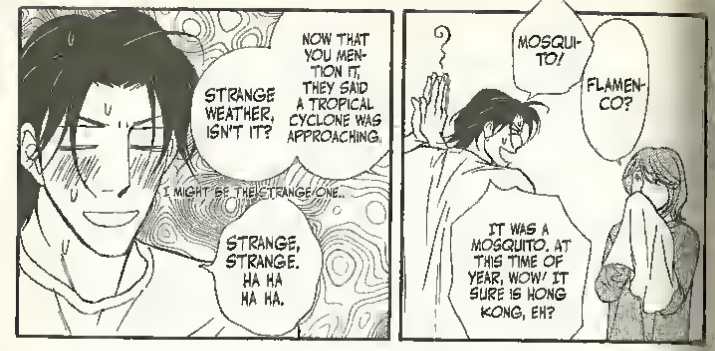
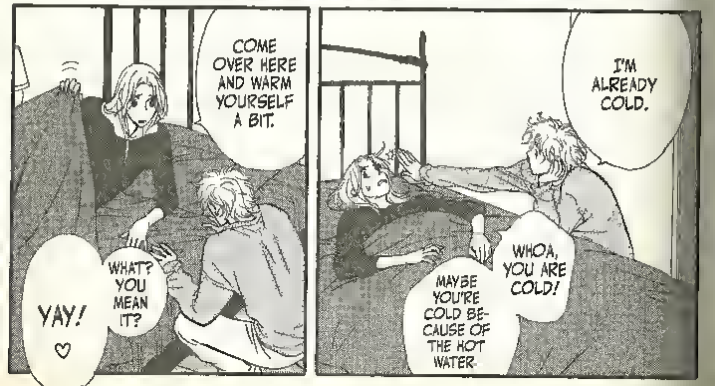
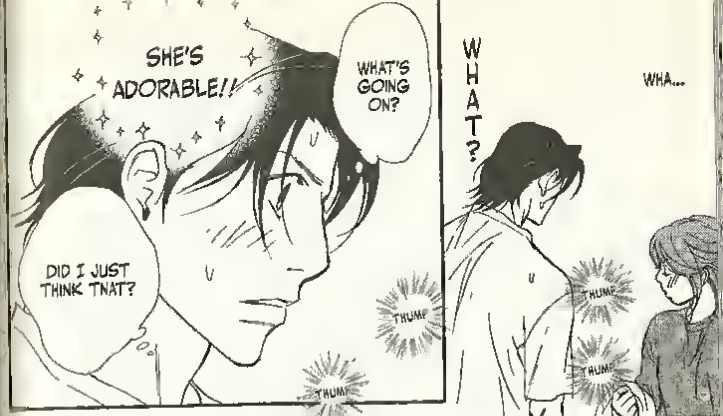
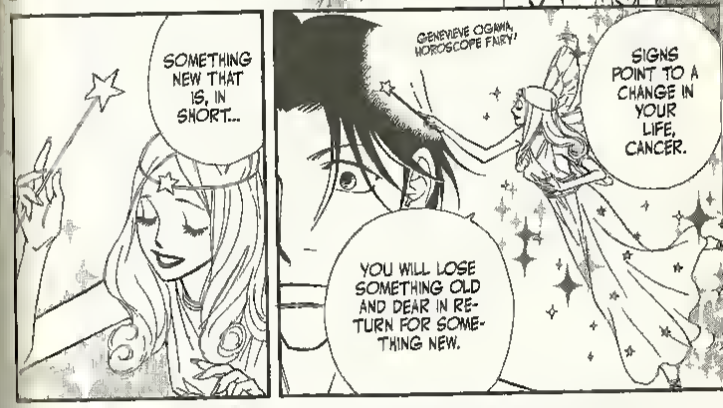
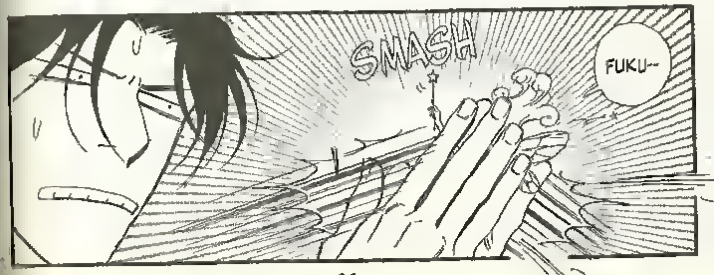

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THEY SAID A TROPICAL CYCLONE WAS APPROACHING.
STRANGE WEATHER, ISN'T IT?
I MIGHT BE THE STRANGE ONE...
STRANGE, STRANGE. HA HA HA HA.
MOSQUI-TO!
FLAMEN-CO?
IT WAS A MOSQUITO. AT THIS TIME OF YEAR, WOW! IT SURE IS HONG KONG, EH?

THE REAL GENEVIEVE OGAWA
I WRITE MANGA, TOO
IT'S HOT HERE TOO...
IT WAS HOT IN THERE...
YOU WEREN'T EVEN IN THE HOT WATER AND YOU GOT DIZZY.


COME OVER HERE AND WARM YOURSELF A BIT.
YAY! ♡
WHAT? YOU MEAN IT?
I'M ALREADY COLD.
WHOA, YOU ARE COLD!
MAYBE YOU'RE COLD BE-CAUSE OF THE HOT WATER.




SOMETHING NEW THAT IS, IN SHORT...
GENEVIEVE OGAWA, HOROSCOPE FAIRY!
SIGNS POINT TO A CHANGE IN YOUR LIFE, CANCER.
YOU WILL LOSE SOMETHING OLD AND DEAR IN RE-TURN FOR SOME-THING NEW.



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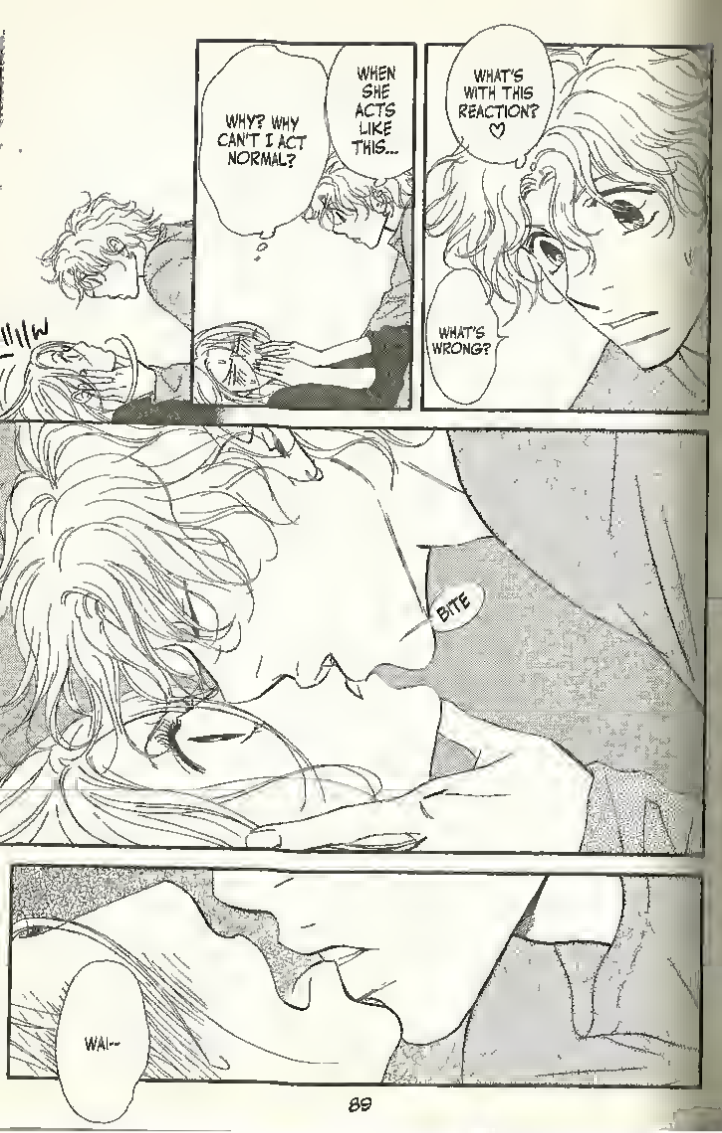

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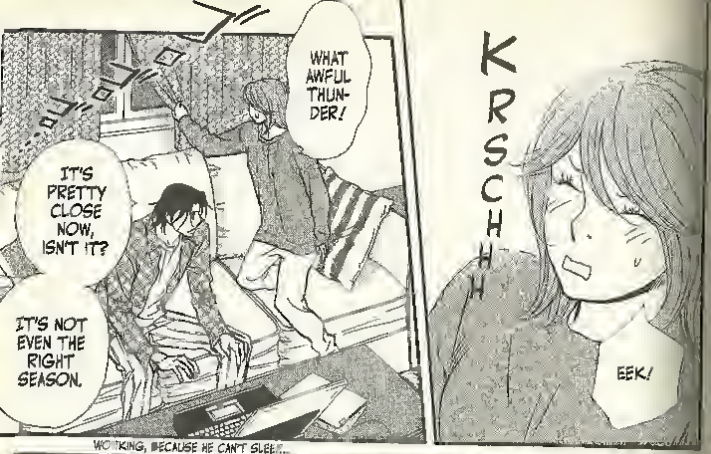

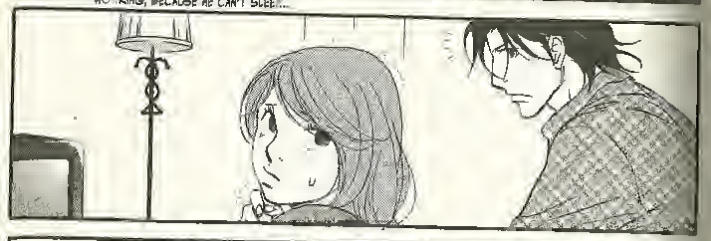

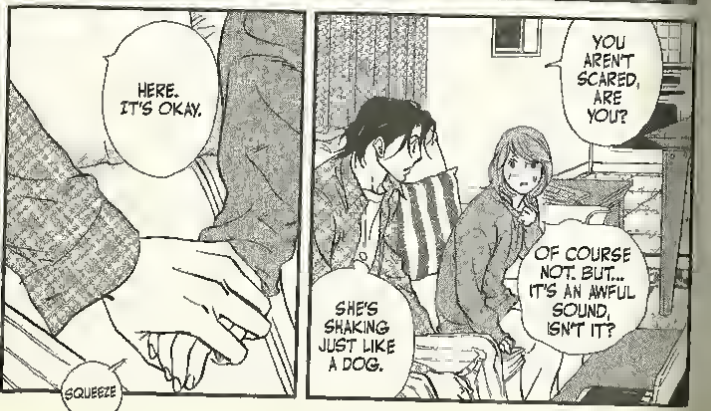

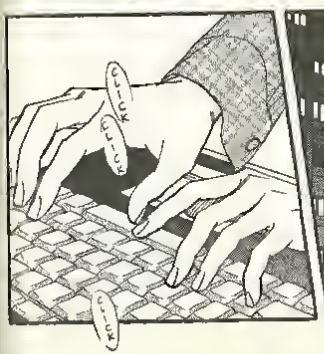

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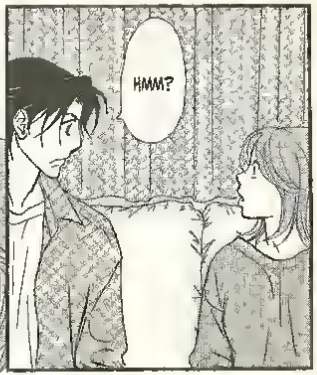
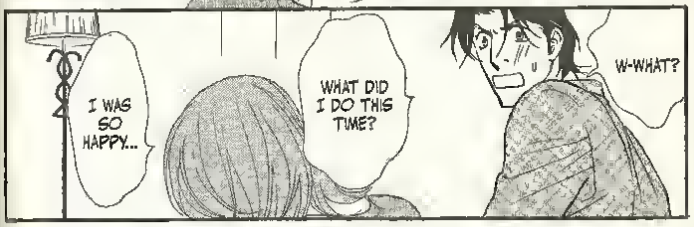
OF COURSE, SHE'S NOT WEARING A BRA.





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...IT'S NOT A MISTAKE?
OR MAY-BE...
WHAT AM I DOING GETTING "HAPPY" NOW?!
IT'S A MIS-TAKE! A MIS-TAKE!
IS THIS WHAT IT MEANT?
THAT HORO-SCOPE...
IT COULDN'T BE...BUT MAYBE...

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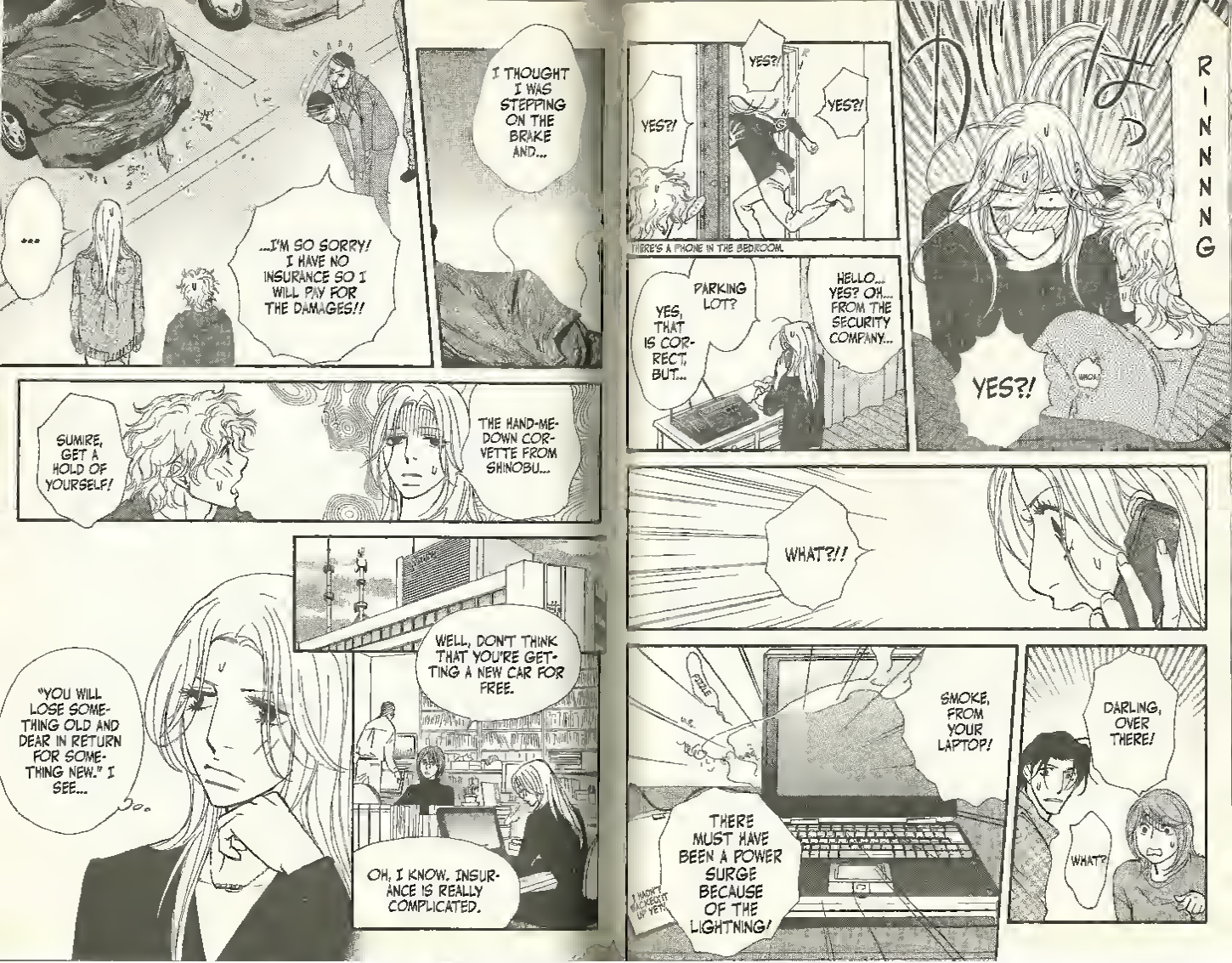
...
...I'M SO SORRY! I HAVE NO INSURANCE SO I WILL PAY FOR THE DAMAGES!!
I THOUGHT I WAS STEPPING ON THE BRAKE AND...
SUMIRE, GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!
THE HAND-ME-DOWN CORVETTE FROM SHINOBU...
"YOU WILL LOSE SOMETHING OLD AND DEAR IN RETURN FOR SOMETHING NEW." I SEE...
WELL, DON'T THINK THAT YOU'RE GETTING A NEW CAR FOR FREE.
OH, I KNOW. INSURANCE IS REALLY COMPLICATED.
YES?!
YES?!
YES?!
THERE'S A PHONE IN THE BEDROOM.
PARKING LOT?
YES, THAT IS CORRECT, BUT...
HELLO... YES? OH... FROM THE SECURITY COMPANY...
RINNNNG
YES?!
WHAT?!!
SMOKE, FROM YOUR LAPTOP!
THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A POWER SURGE BECAUSE OF THE LIGHTNING!
I WON'T ACCEPT IT YET!
DARLING, OVER THERE!
WHAT?

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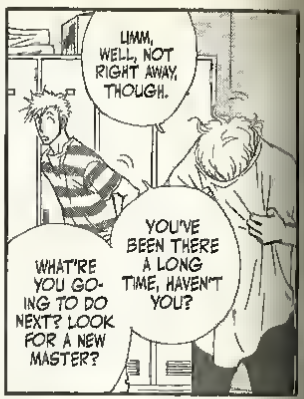
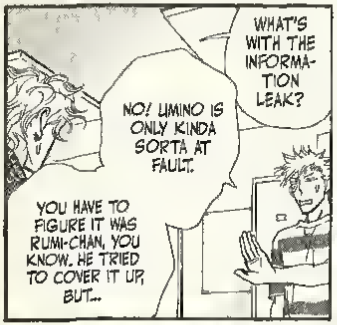
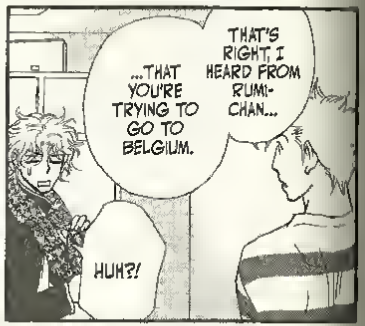
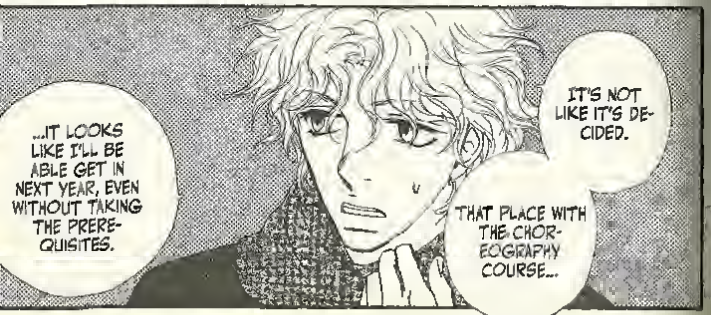
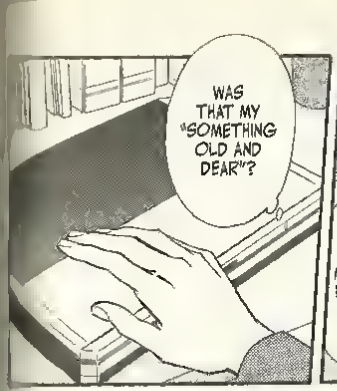



WHAT'S WITH THE INFORMATION LEAK?
NO! LIMINO IS ONLY KINDA SORTA AT FAULT.
YOU HAVE TO FIGURE IT WAS RUMI-CHAN, YOU KNOW. HE TRIED TO COVER IT UP, BUT...




...IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE ABLE GET IN NEXT YEAR, EVEN WITHOUT TAKING THE PRERE-QUISITES.
IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S DECIDED.
THAT PLACE WITH THE CHOREOGRAPHY COURSE...



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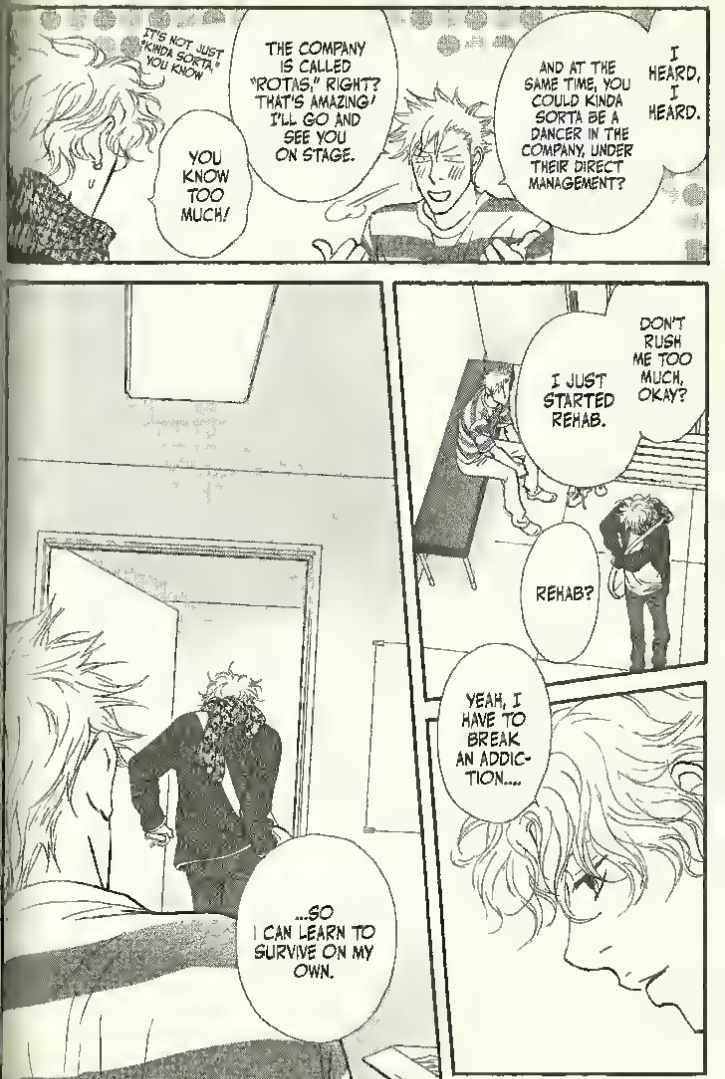
IT'S NOT JUST "KINDA SORTA," YOU KNOW
YOU KNOW TOO MUCH!
THE COMPANY IS CALLED "ROTAS," RIGHT? THAT'S AMAZING! I'LL GO AND SEE YOU ON STAGE.
AND AT THE SAME TIME, YOU COULD KINDA SORTA BE A DANCER IN THE COMPANY, UNDER THEIR DIRECT MANAGEMENT?
I HEARD, I HEARD.
DON'T RUSH ME TOO MUCH, OKAY?
I JUST STARTED REHAB.
REHAB?
YEAH, I HAVE TO BREAK AN ADDIC-TION....
...SO I CAN LEARN TO SURVIVE ON MY OWN.

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Scans By

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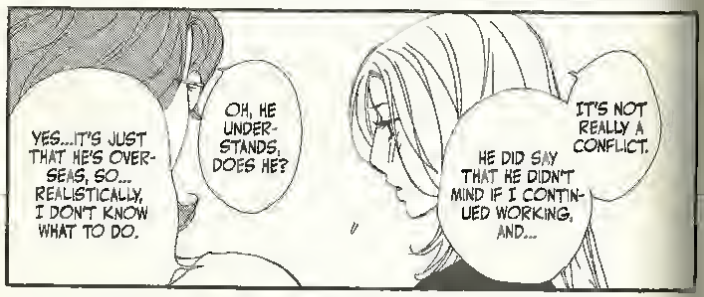
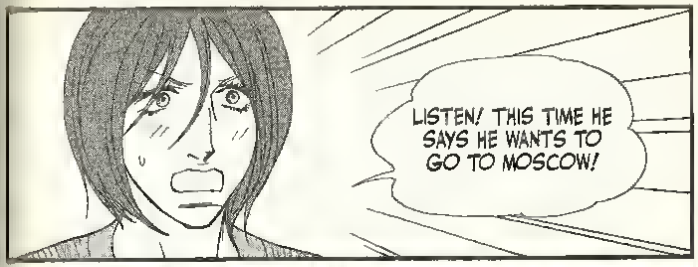
I GREW UP IN A HOUSEHOLD WHERE BOTH MY PARENTS WORKED, SO IT'S NORMAL TO ME.
THOUGH I AM INTERESTED IN THE JAPANESE TERM FOR QUITTING THE WORKFORCE TO MARRY, "KOTOBUKI-TAISHA."


YES...IT'S JUST THAT HE'S OVERSEAS, SO... REALISTICALLY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
OH, HE UNDERSTANDS, DOES HE?
HE DID SAY THAT HE DIDN'T MIND IF I CONTINUED WORKING, AND...
IT'S NOT REALLY A CONFLICT.

ONLY, YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL. WHAT HE SAYS ISN'T NECESSARILY HOW HE REALLY FEELS.
LOOK TO HIS FAMILY TO SEE WHAT HE REALLY EXPECTS.

AS LONG AS HE'S COOPERATIVE, THERE'S LOTS OF WAYS TO DEAL WITH IT.
HONG KONG, RIGHT? IT'S CLOSE ENOUGH THAT YOU CAN COME AND GO ON THE WEEKENDS.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
THAT'S TRUE.



YEAH! WE HAD A BIG FIGHT LAST TIME BECAUSE HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO IRAQ!
HUGH DOES?
I KNOW IT'S PART OF A JOURNALIST'S JOB TO REPORT ON TERRORISM.
BUT I THOUGHT HE WAS MORE OF A CULTURE TYPE OF GUY.

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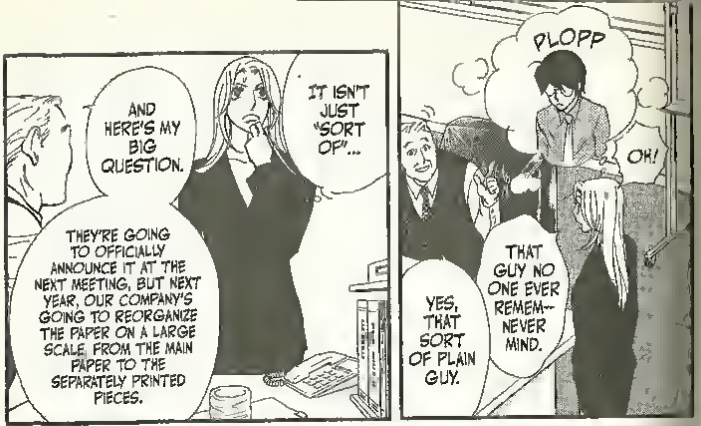
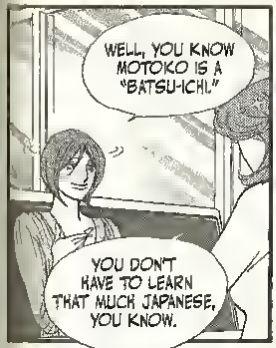
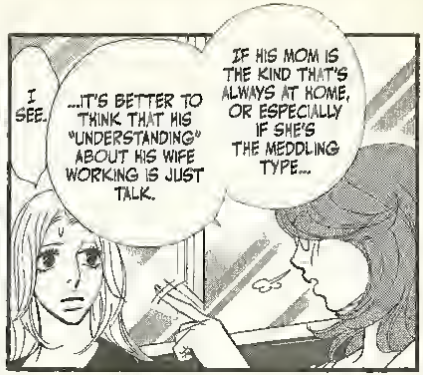
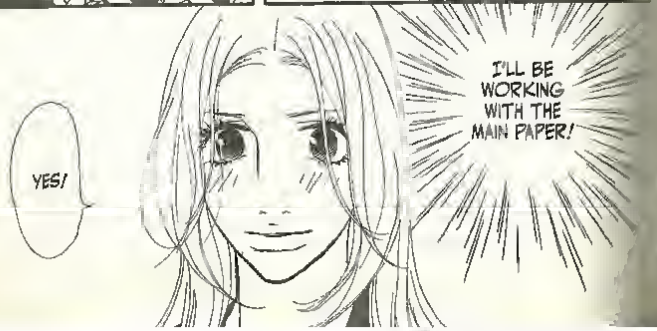

AND HERE'S MY BIG QUESTION.
IT ISN'T JUST "SORT OF"...
THEY'RE GOING TO OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCE IT AT THE NEXT MEETING, BUT NEXT YEAR, OUR COMPANY'S GOING TO REORGANIZE THE PAPER ON A LARGE SCALE FROM THE MAIN PAPER TO THE SEPARATELY PRINTED PIECES.
PLOPP
OH!
YES, THAT SORT OF PLAIN GUY.
THAT GUY NO ONE EVER REMEM-- NEVER MIND.

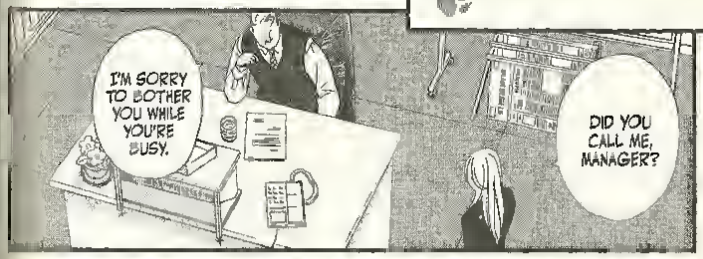


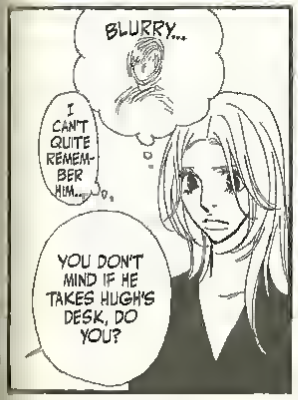

I SEE.
...IT'S BETTER TO THINK THAT HIS "UNDERSTANDING" ABOUT HIS WIFE WORKING IS JUST TALK.
IF HIS MOM IS THE KIND THAT'S ALWAYS AT HOME, OR ESPECIALLY IF SHE'S THE MEDDLING TYPE...

BATSU-ICHI: DIVORCEE LITERALLY, "FIRST STRIKE."

THEY ASKED US, TOO, SO I SUGGESTED YOU.
THEY'RE GOING TO CONSTRUCT A MAIN DEPARTMENT IN THAT REORGANIZATION AND THEY WANT A "BRAIN" FROM EACH DEPARTMENT FOR IT.
WHAT?







I HIRED A BRAND-NEW REPORTER, SUKENARI.
IT'S ABOUT THE GUY WHO'S GOING TO TAKE OVER SO YOU AND EMMA DON'T HAVE TO COVER FOR HUGH ANYMORE.
SUKENARI, YOU SAID?

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UM, PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT. I WILL TRANSFER THE CALL TO THE OTHER HANDSET..
PUT MANGA ON EVERY PAGE...
OH.
HEL-LO?
NO, NO, IT'S GREAT! YOU'RE FINALLY BEING REWARDED FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK.
WOW, A REORGAN-IZATION.
AT WORK...(YUCK)
WHAT SHOULD I DO? WHEN I THINK HE'S COUNTING ON ME, I FEEL PRESSURED AND...
KANEKO-SAN REALLY HAS CON-FIDENCE IN YOU, DOESN'T HE?
FINGERMARKS
107
I'M EXCITED!
I DIDN'T EVEN CONSIDER IT WHEN I WAS IN-TERNATIONAL NEWS.
MOMO, DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR THE REORGANIZATION? THINGS IN THE PAPER THAT ARE HARD TO READ, OR SOMETHING?
WELL, YEAH.
I JUST READ MANGA.
SO NO?
THEN IT'S WORK WORTH DOING, ISN'T IT?
I GET IT. ENOUGH. I WAS WRONG TO ASK YOU.
R-INNNG
THEN HOW ABOUT INCLUDING A LIFE-SIZED PIN-UP OF A HOT ACTRESS LIKE EIKO KOIKE?
SHOO!
In an effort to strengthen countermeasures against violent crimes, Minister of Justice Nozawa questioned the legislative inquiry committee regarding a recent proposal of the legal sentencing that is the pillar of the penal code and criminal procedure code
TO
Some guy named Nozawa told some VIPs that like there should be like way more punishments for super-mega bad guys, you know?
IN ARTICLE THAT ANY SHOJO COULD READ
HOW ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
WHAT IS THIS. THE O.C. OR SOMETHING?
106

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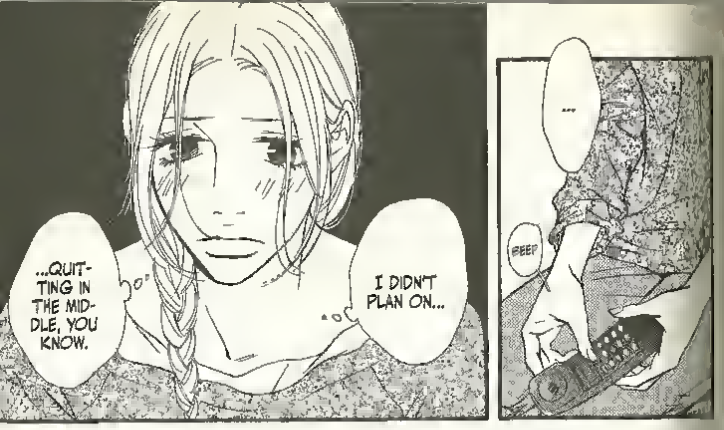
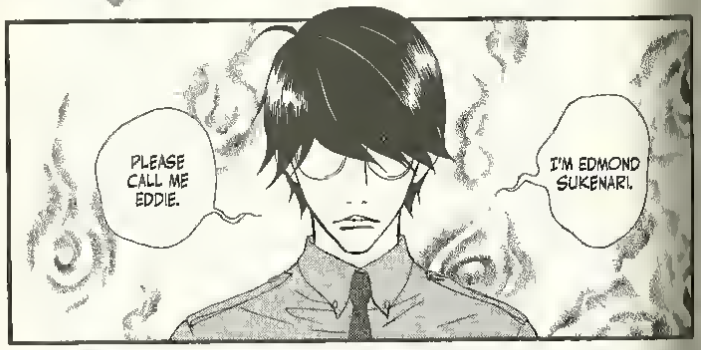
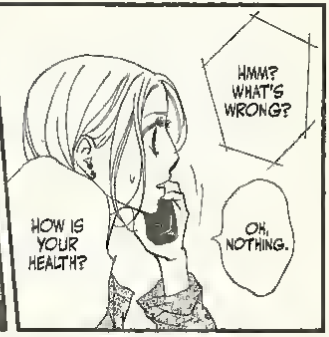
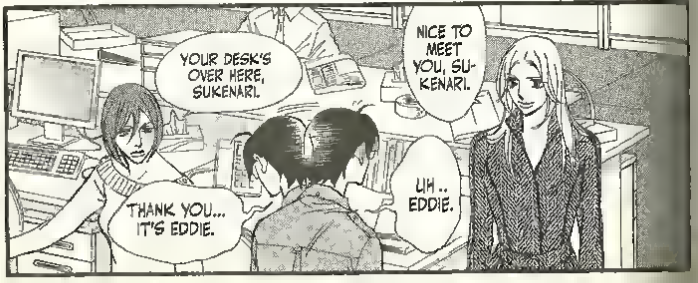
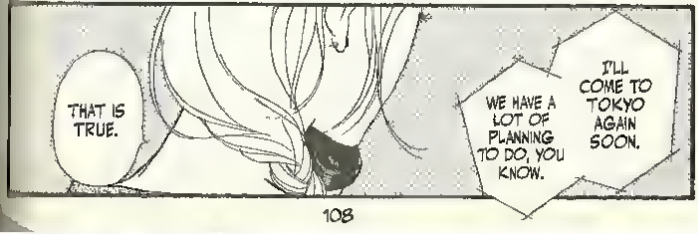




...CUTTING DOWN ON THE ALCOHOL, YOU KNOW.
↑BECAUSE YUKUSHIMA-SAN MAKES HIM STOP
FINE, FINE. I'M EATING WELL NOWADAYS AND...
↑BECAUSE FUKUSHIMA-SAN COOKS







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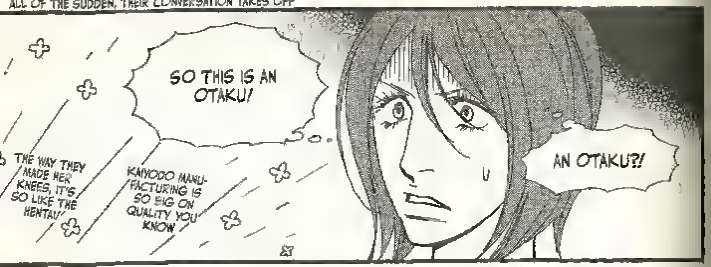
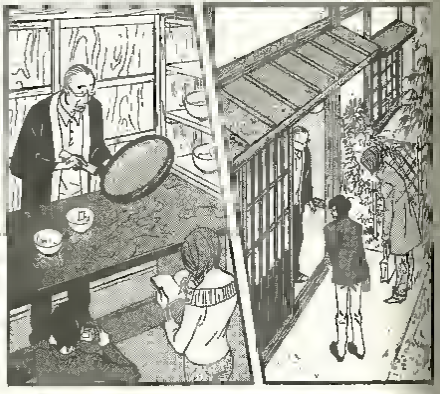
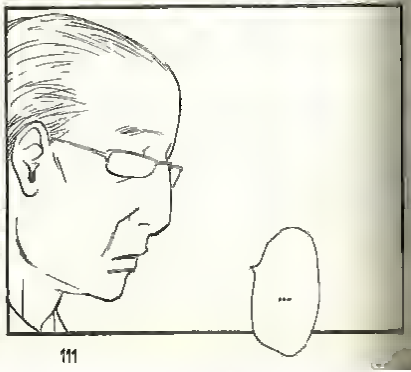
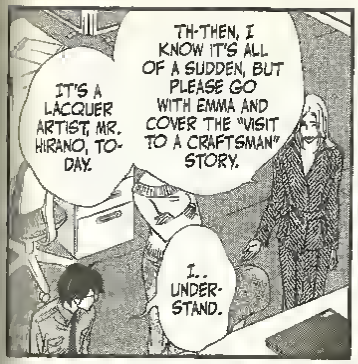
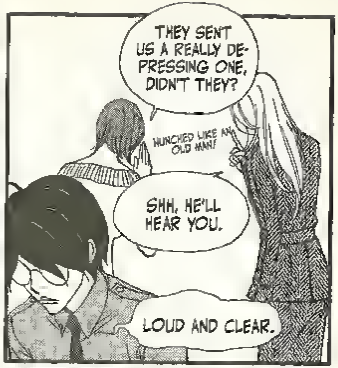
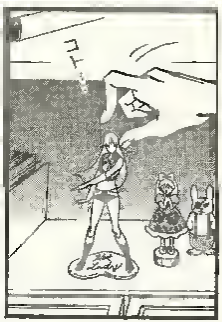

ALL OF THE SUDDEN, THEIR CONVERSATION TAKES OFF
SO THIS IS AN OTAKU!
THE WAY THEY MADE HER KNEES, IT'S SO LIKE THE HENTAI!
KAMODO MANUFACTURING IS SO BIG ON QUALITY YOU KNOW
AN OTAKU?!

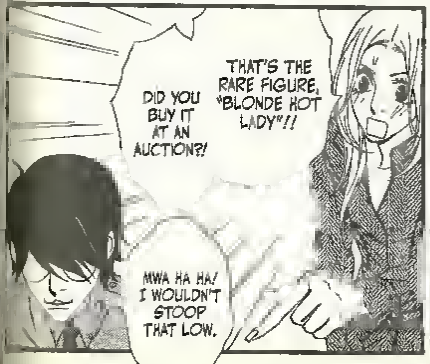


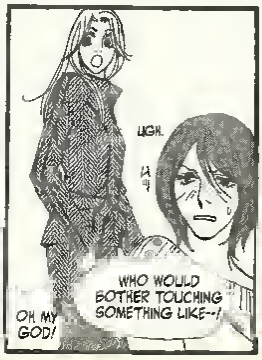



TH-THEN, I KNOW IT'S ALL OF A SUDDEN, BUT PLEASE GO WITH EMMA AND COVER THE "VISIT TO A CRAFTSMAN" STORY.
IT'S A LACQUER ARTIST, MR. HIRANO, TODAY.
I.. UNDERSTAND.









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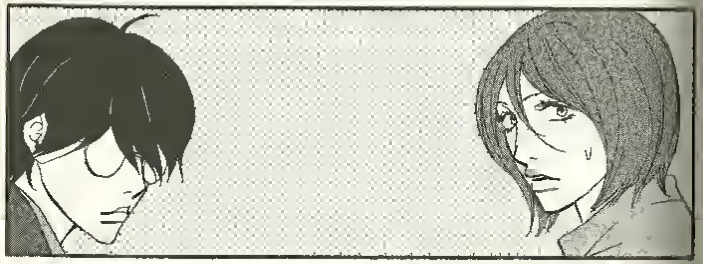
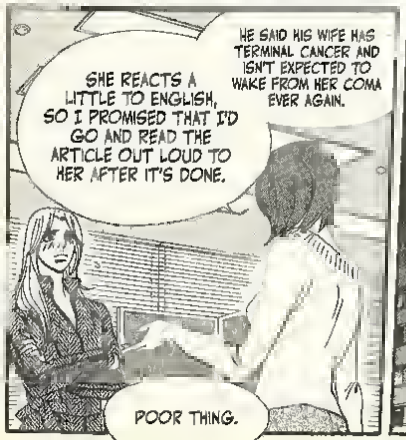
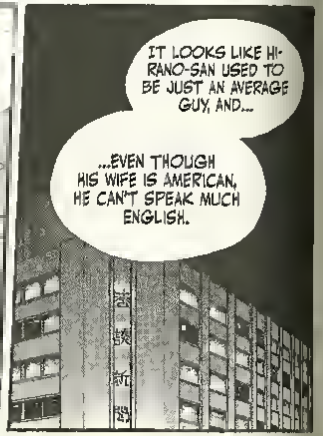
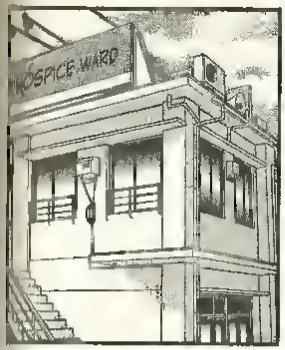
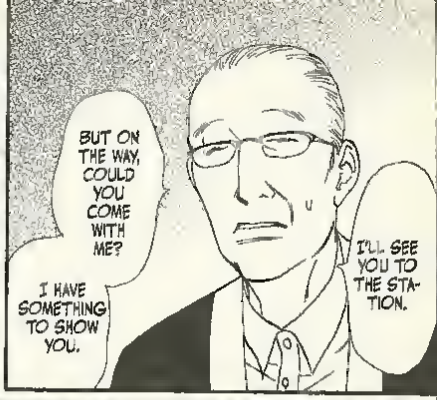
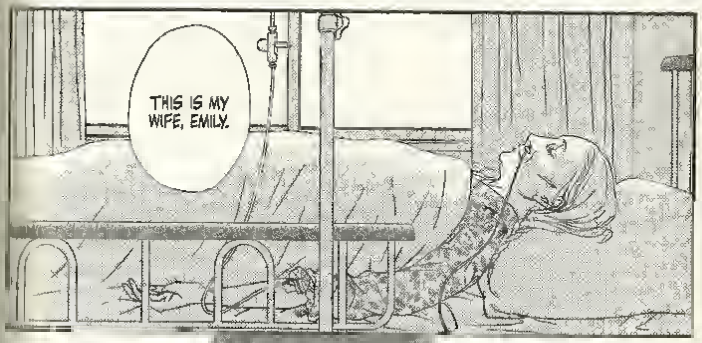



SHE REACTS A LITTLE TO ENGLISH, SO I PROMISED THAT I'D GO AND READ THE ARTICLE OUT LOUD TO HER AFTER IT'S DONE.
HE SAID HIS WIFE HAS TERMINAL CANCER AND ISN'T EXPECTED TO WAKE FROM HER COMA EVER AGAIN.
POOR THING.









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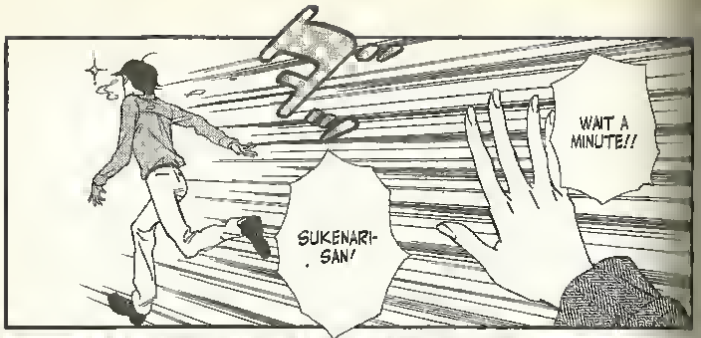
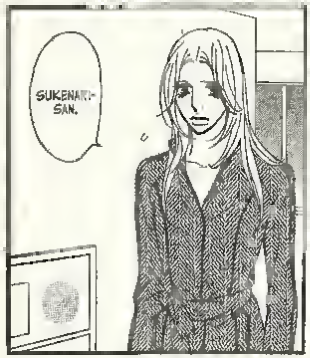
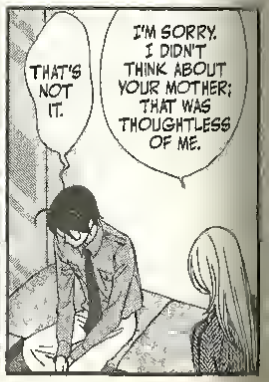
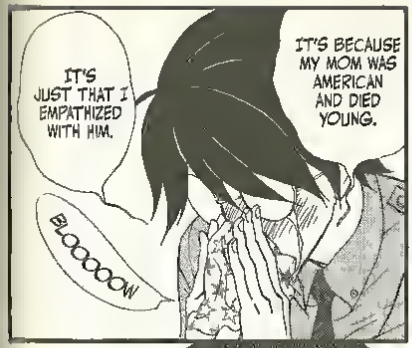
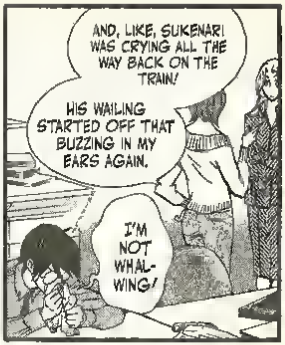
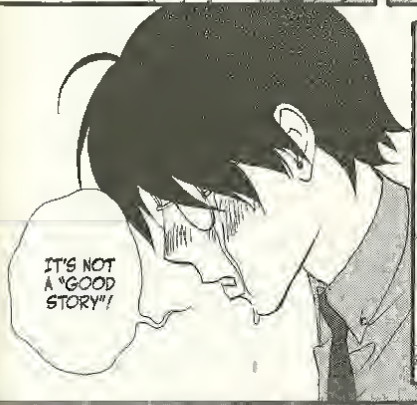


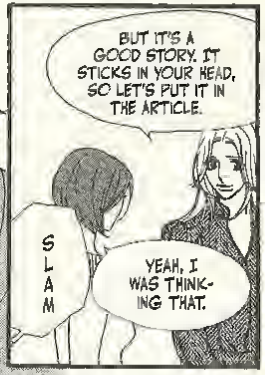


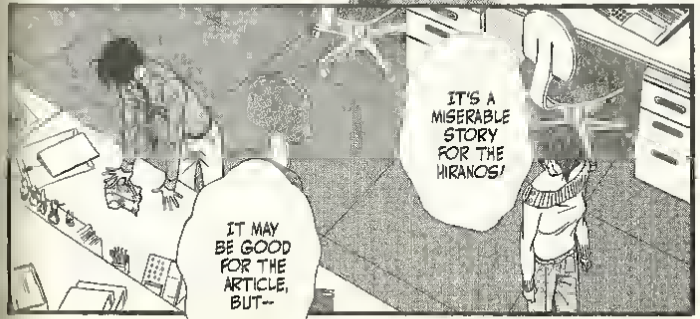





AND, LIKE, SUKENARI WAS CRYING ALL THE WAY BACK ON THE TRAIN!
HIS WAILING STARTED OFF THAT BUZZING IN MY EARS AGAIN.
I'M NOT WHAL-WING!







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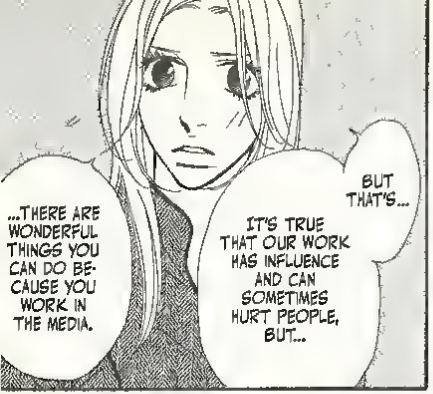
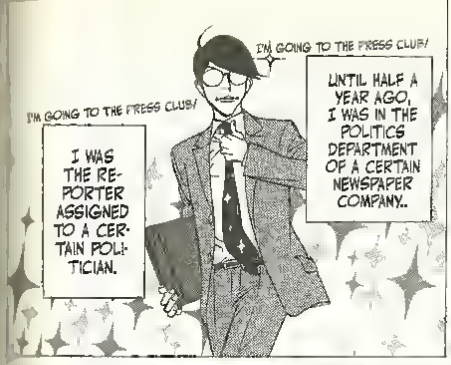
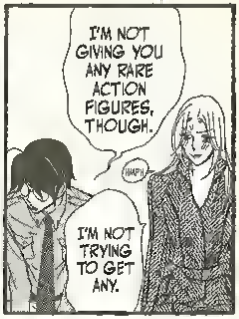
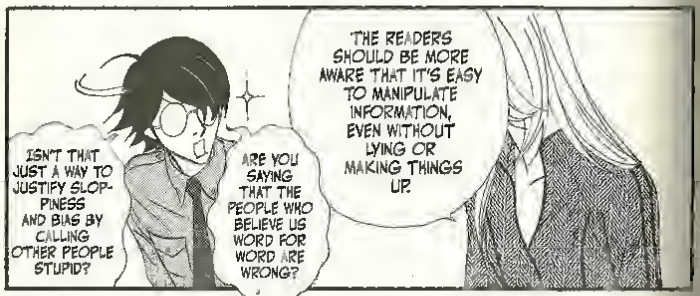
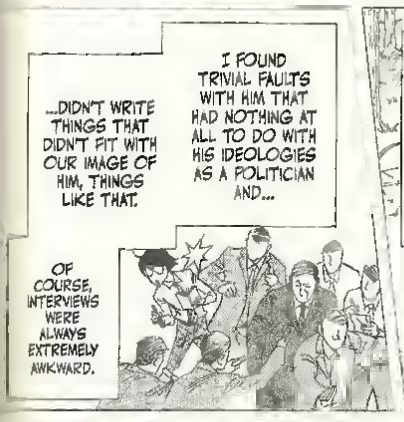
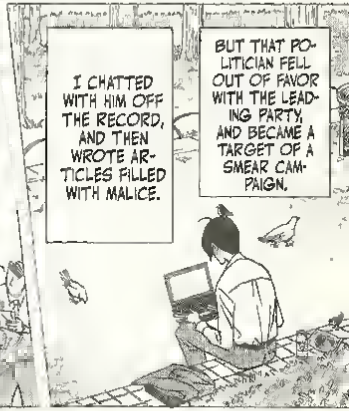

...THERE ARE WONDERFUL THINGS YOU CAN DO BECAUSE YOU WORK IN THE MEDIA.
IT'S TRUE THAT OUR WORK HAS INFLUENCE AND CAN SOMETIMES HURT PEOPLE, BUT...
BUT THAT'S...

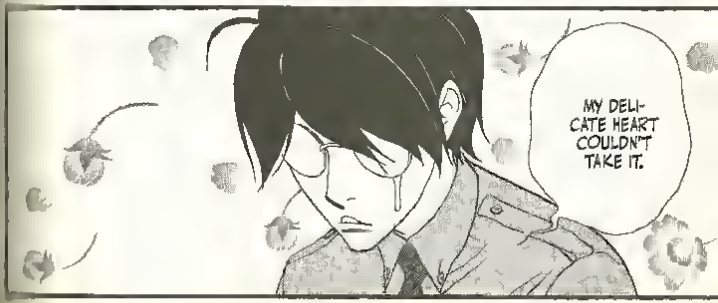

I'M GOING TO THE PRESS CLUB!
I'M GOING TO THE PRESS CLUB!
I WAS THE REPORTER ASSIGNED TO A CERTAIN POLITICIAN.
UNTIL HALF A YEAR AGO, I WAS IN THE POLITICS DEPARTMENT OF A CERTAIN NEWSPAPER COMPANY..




ISN'T THAT JUST A WAY TO JUSTIFY SLOPPINESS AND BIAS BY CALLING OTHER PEOPLE STUPID?
ARE YOU SAYING THAT THE PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE US WORD FOR WORD ARE WRONG?
THE READERS SHOULD BE MORE AWARE THAT IT'S EASY TO MANIPULATE INFORMATION, EVEN WITHOUT LYING OR MAKING THINGS UP.


...DIDN'T WRITE THINGS THAT DIDN'T FIT WITH OUR IMAGE OF HIM, THINGS LIKE THAT.
I FOUND TRIVIAL FAULTS WITH HIM THAT HAD NOTHING AT ALL TO DO WITH HIS IDEOLOGIES AS A POLITICIAN AND...
OF COURSE, INTERVIEWS WERE ALWAYS EXTREMELY AWKWARD.


I CHATTED WITH HIM OFF THE RECORD, AND THEN WROTE ARTICLES FILLED WITH MALICE.
BUT THAT POLITICIAN FELL OUT OF FAVOR WITH THE LEADING PARTY, AND BECAME A TARGET OF A SMEAR CAMPAIGN.



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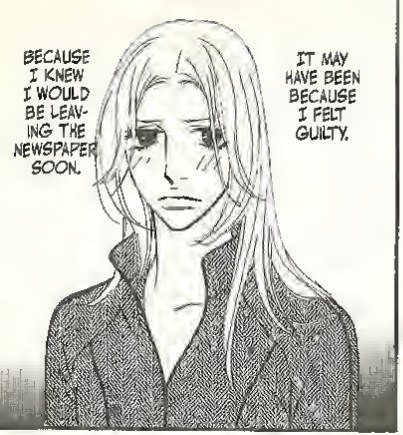
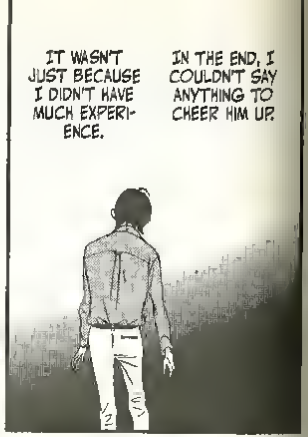
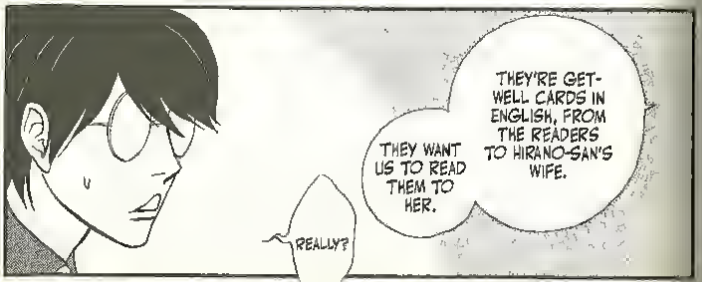
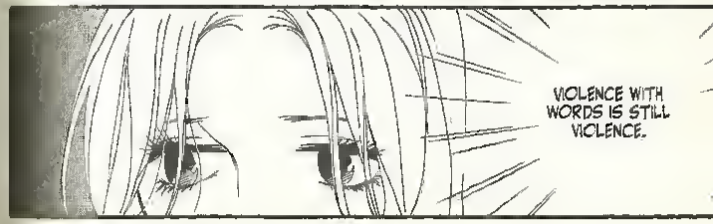




BUT ONE WEEK LATER...





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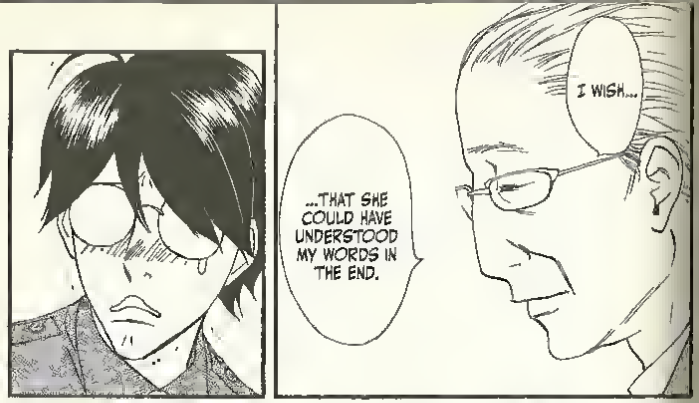
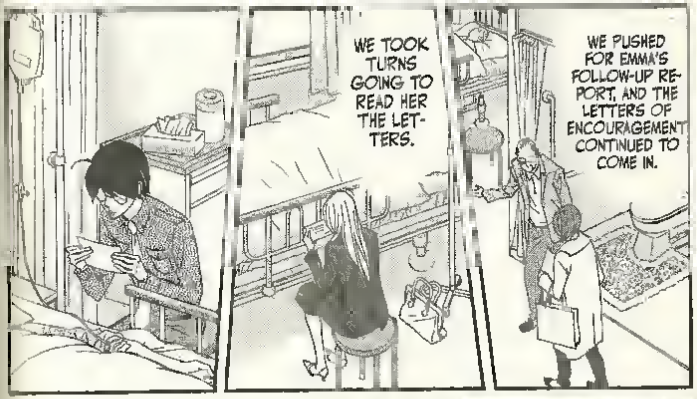
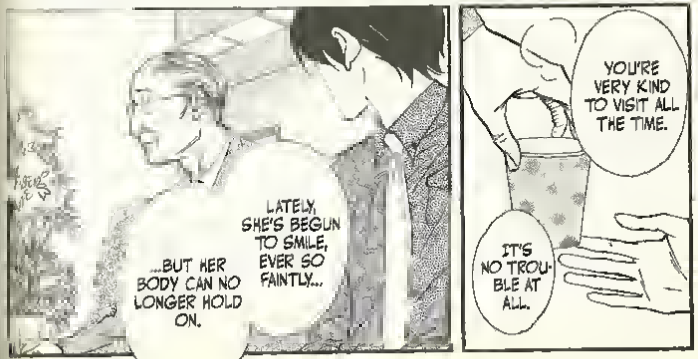


EVERYONE SEES A BIT OF THEIR OWN SITUATION IN THEIRS, AND IT HITS HOME.
I THOUGHT WE'D GET A RESPONSE, BUT THIS IS MORE THAN I'D IMAGINED.


WE TOOK TURNS GOING TO READ HER THE LETTERS.
WE PUSHED FOR EMMA'S FOLLOW-UP REPORT, AND THE LETTERS OF ENCOURAGEMENT CONTINUED TO COME IN.

B-BUT I'M NOT...
...GOOD AT LETTERS AND THINGS.
WE'LL TRANSLATE IT INTO ENGLISH AND ADD THE PHONETIC PRONUNCIATION.
YOU CAN WRITE A LETTER.


...BUT HER BODY CAN NO LONGER HOLD ON.
LATELY, SHE'S BEGUN TO SMILE, EVER SO FAINTLY...
YOU'RE VERY KIND TO VISIT ALL THE TIME.
IT'S NO TROUBLE AT ALL.

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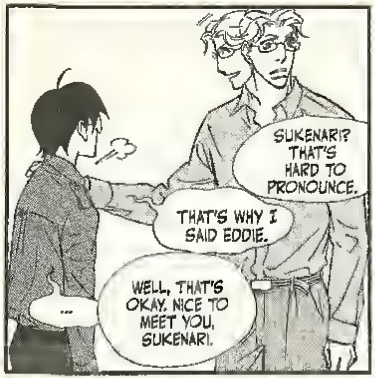

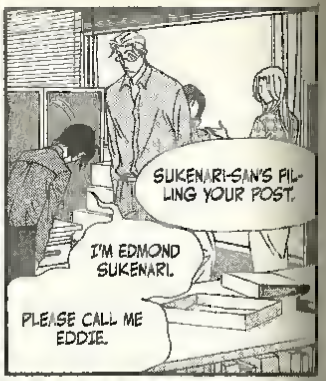

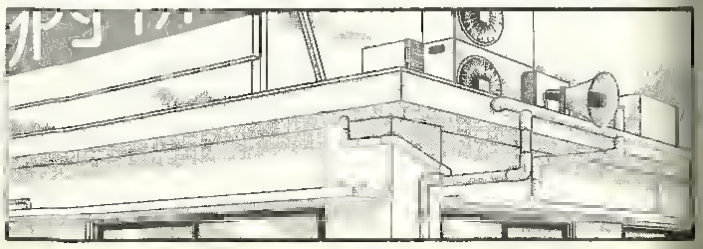

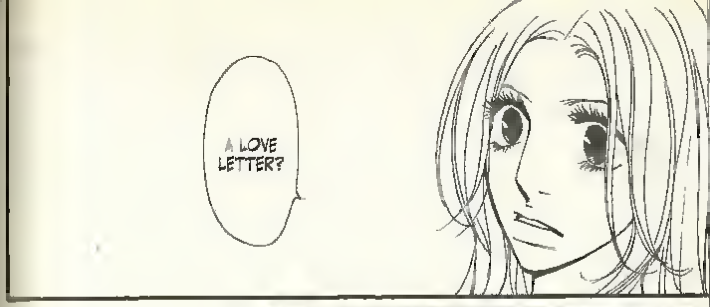

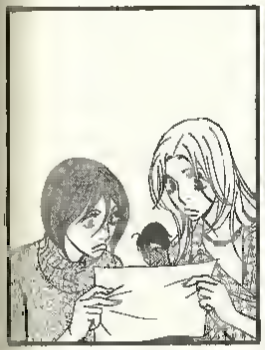

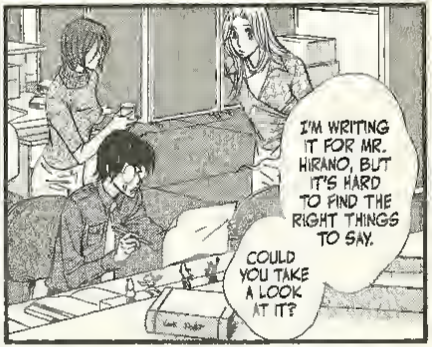

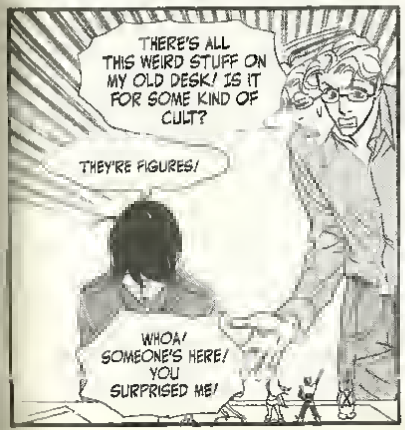

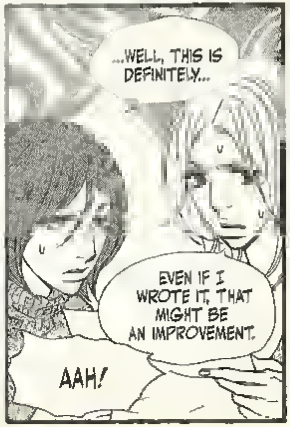

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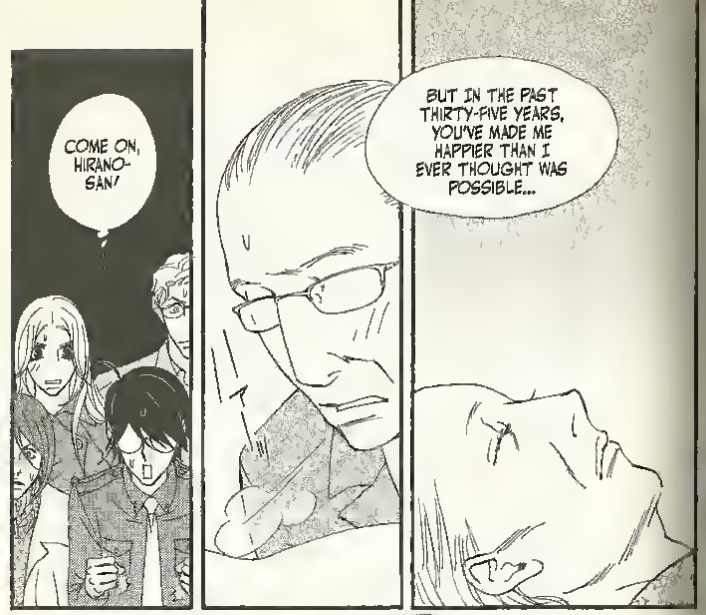

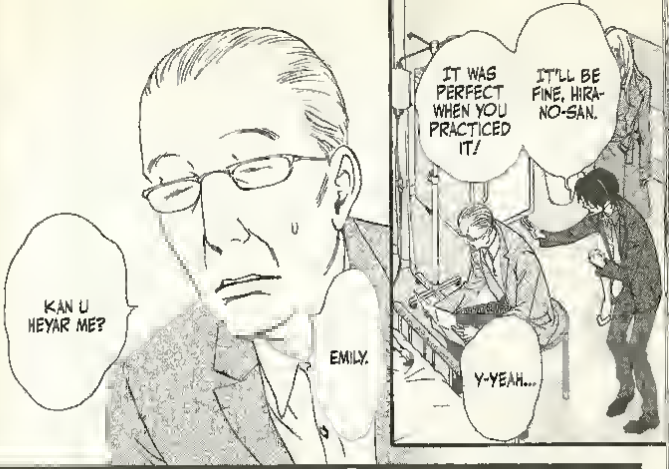

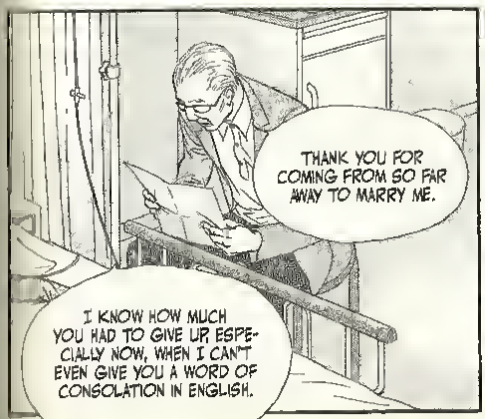
THANK YOU FOR COMING FROM SO FAR AWAY TO MARRY ME.
I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU HAD TO GIVE UP, ESPECIALLY NOW, WHEN I CAN'T EVEN GIVE YOU A WORD OF CONSOLATION IN ENGLISH.

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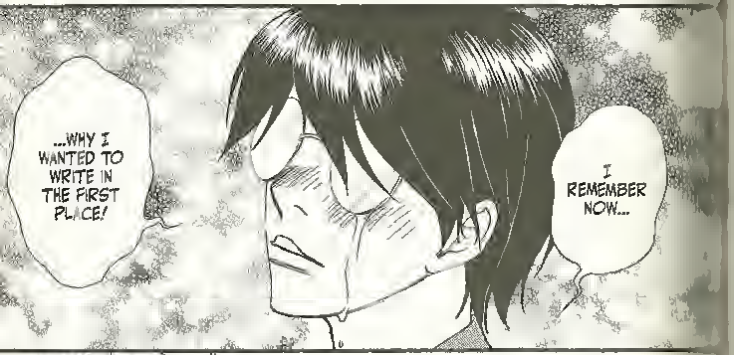
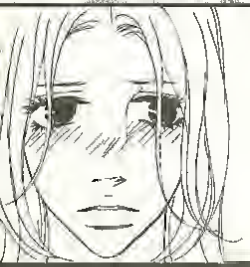
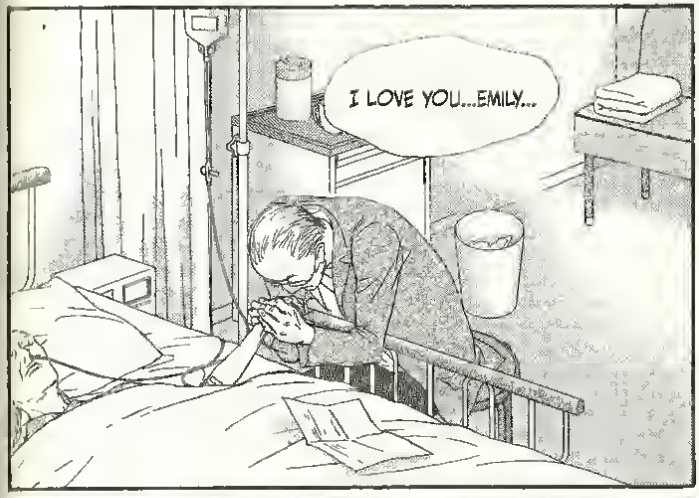




IT'S IRONIC, BUT,

...MY HEART WAS HURT BY THE SAME THING THAT MADE HIM SO HAPPY.



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...I DON'T WANT TO QUIT WORK.
AND I THINK IT'S BE-CAUSE...
MEN'S
WELL, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF, I'M AFRAID OF MY OWN GENIUS!
IF YOU EVER NEED TO SEDUCE SOME GIRL, I'LL HELP YOU.
EH? SUKENA--
SIGH...
I WONDER WHY NO ONE WILL CALL ME EDDIE?
HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED CON-TACT LENSES?

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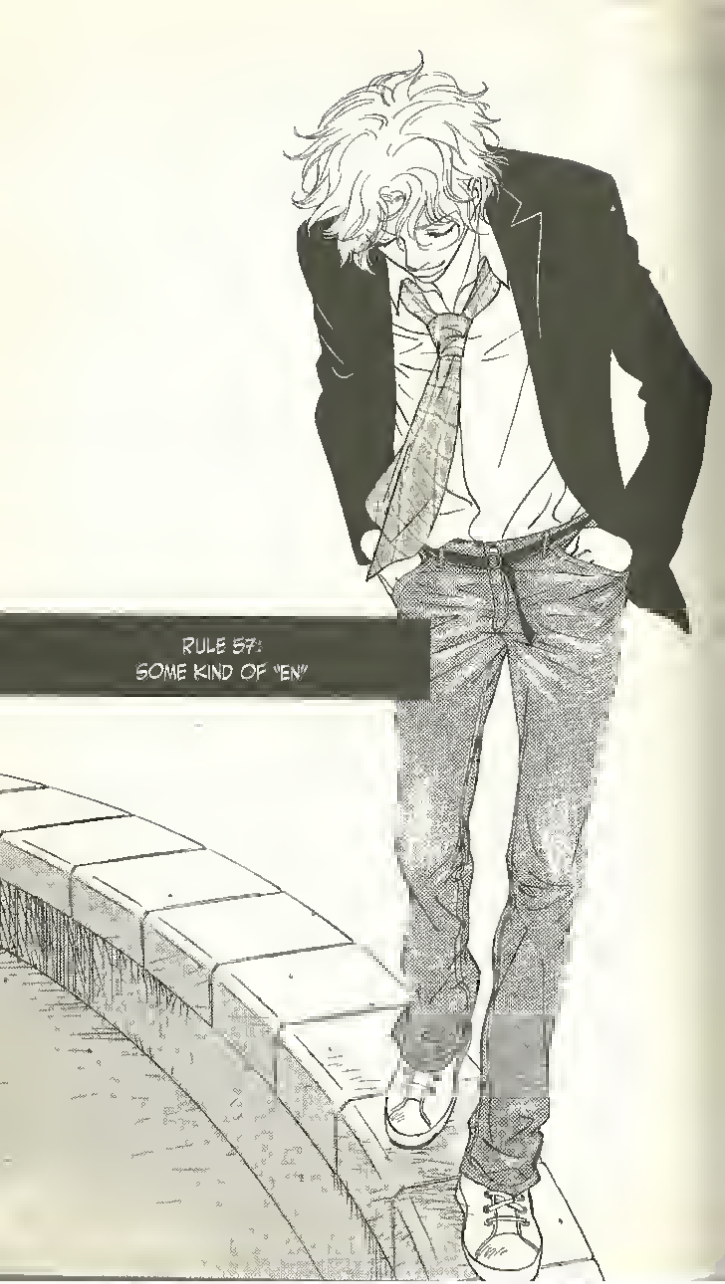

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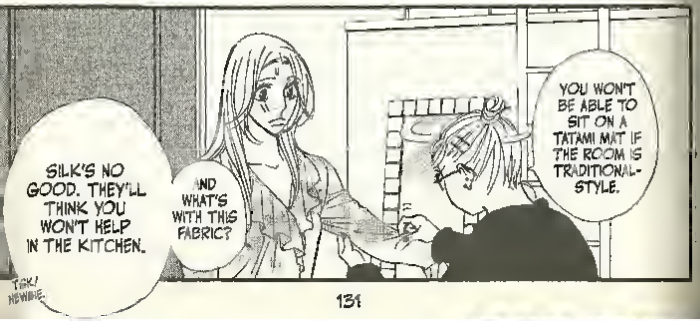
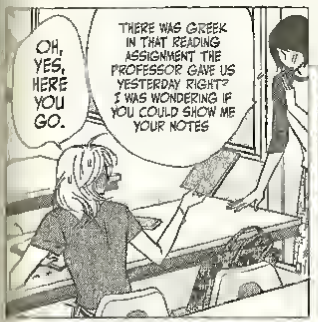
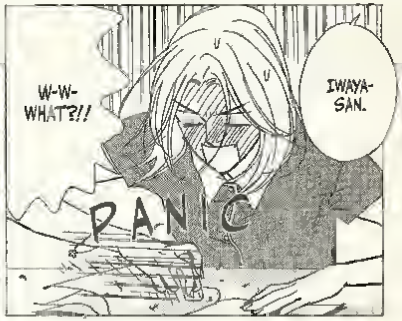
TEN YEARS LATER


SILK'S NO GOOD. THEY'LL THINK YOU WON'T HELP IN THE KITCHEN.
AND WHAT'S WITH THIS FABRIC?
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SIT ON A TATAMI MAT IF THE ROOM IS TRADITIONAL-STYLE.
TSK! NEWBIE.


OH, YES, HERE YOU GO.
THERE WAS GREEK IN THAT READING ASSIGNMENT THE PROFESSOR GAVE US YESTERDAY RIGHT? I WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD SHOW ME YOUR NOTES



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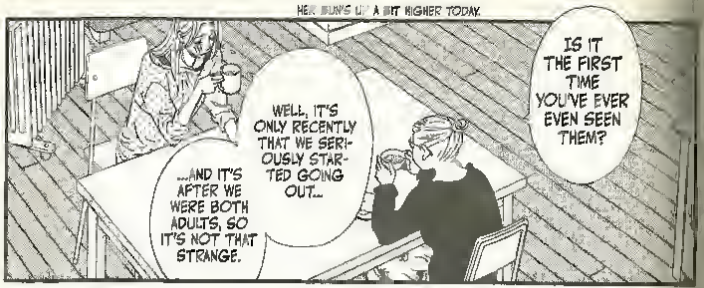
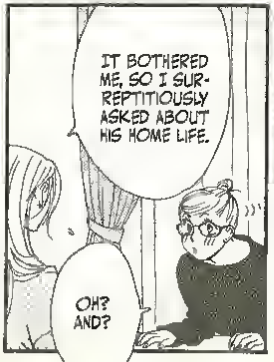
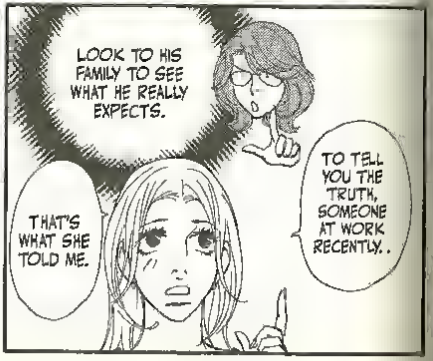
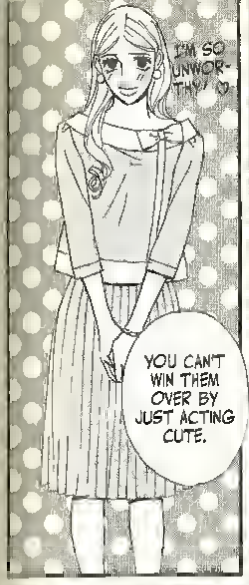

HER SKIRT'S UP A BIT HIGHER TODAY.
IS IT THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE EVER EVEN SEEN THEM?
WELL, IT'S ONLY RECENTLY THAT WE SERIOUSLY STARTED GOING OUT...
...AND IT'S AFTER WE WERE BOTH ADULTS, SO IT'S NOT THAT STRANGE.

I DON'T MEAN TO RAIN ON YOUR PARADE, BUT ARE YOU GOING TO BE OKAY? RUSHING THINGS LIKE THIS?
YOU HAVEN'T MADE A FIRM DECISION ABOUT WORK YET, HAVE YOU?







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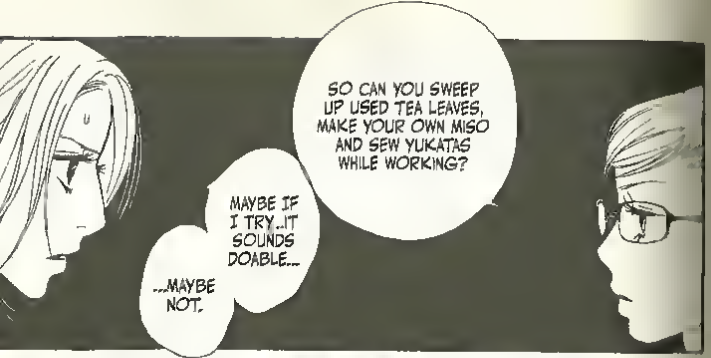
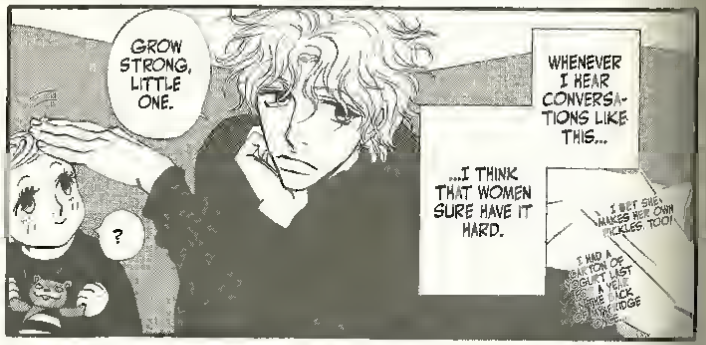
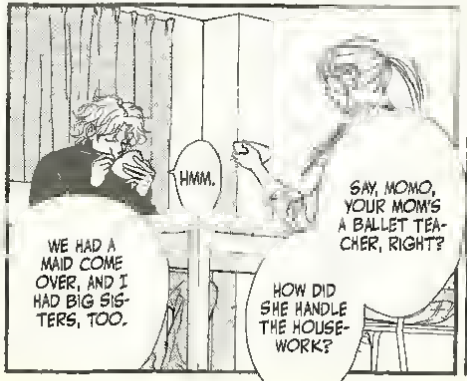
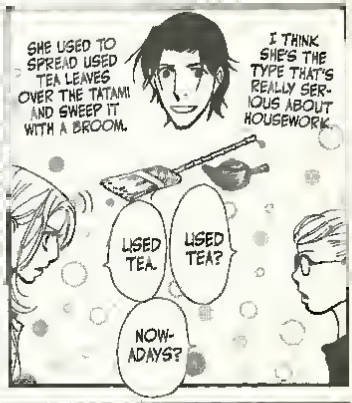
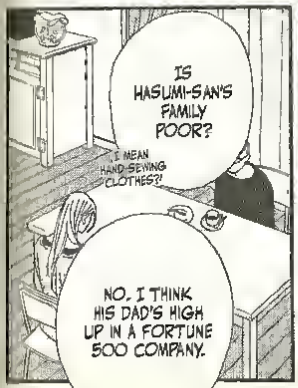

SO CAN YOU SWEEP UP USED TEA LEAVES, MAKE YOUR OWN MISO AND SEW YUKATAS WHILE WORKING?
MAYBE IF I TRY...IT SOUNDS DOABLE...
...MAYBE NOT.

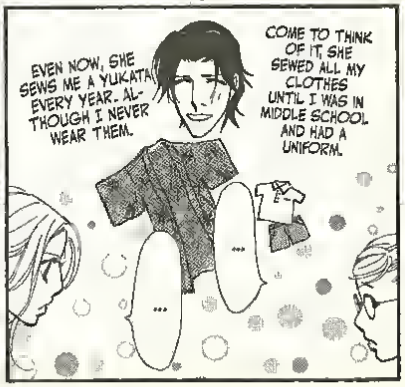

GROW STRONG, LITTLE ONE.
?
WHENEVER I HEAR CONVERSATIONS LIKE THIS...
...I THINK THAT WOMEN SURE HAVE IT HARD.
I BET SHE'S MAKES HER OWN PICKLES, TOO!
I HAD A COLLECTION OF PRODUCT LIST FROM A FEW TIME I KICK FRIDGE DOOR


HMM.
WE HAD A MAID COME OVER, AND I HAD BIG SISTERS, TOO.
SAY, MOMO, YOUR MOM'S A BALLET TEACHER, RIGHT?
HOW DID SHE HANDLE THE HOUSEWORK?

THINGS LIKE MISO AND KETCHUP, YOU KNOW.
SHE REALLY CARES ABOUT OUR HEALTH, SO SHE MAKES EVERYTHING HERSELF!
YOU TAKE SOYBEANS AND...I REALLY DON'T KNOW.
WHAT? HOW DO YOU EVEN MAKE MISO?


SHE USED TO SPREAD USED TEA LEAVES OVER THE TATAMI AND SWEEP IT WITH A BROOM.
I THINK SHE'S THE TYPE THAT'S REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT HOUSEWORK.
USED TEA.
USED TEA?
NOWADAYS?




EVEN NOW, SHE SEWS ME A YUKATA EVERY YEAR. ALTHOUGH I NEVER WEAR THEM.
COME TO THINK OF IT, SHE SEWED ALL MY CLOTHES UNTIL I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HAD A UNIFORM.
...
...

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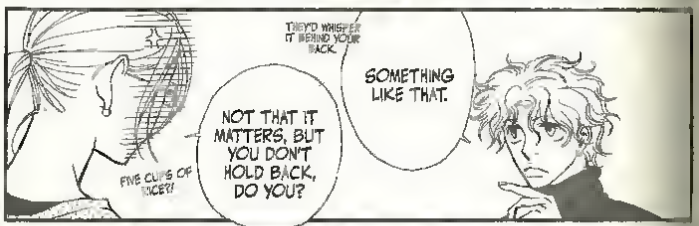
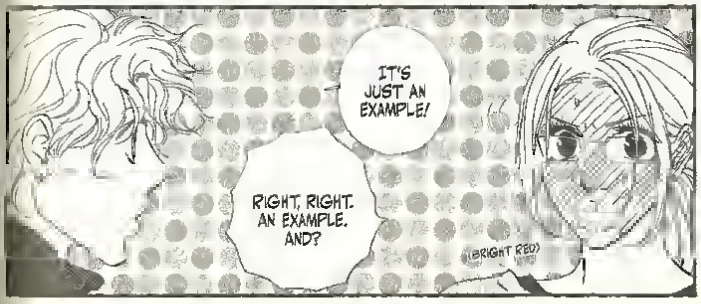
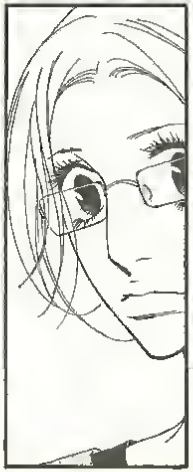
BIG SIS TER 3
MOTHER
BIG SIS TER 1
BIG SIS TER 2
BIG SIS TER 4
SHE'S PRETTY, BUT WHAT A DEBBIE DOWN-ER.
SO, HOW MUCH TALLER THAN TAKESHI ARE YOU?
I WONDER IF FIVE CUPS OF RICE WAS ENOUGH?
HEY, OUR SISTER-IN-LAW'S OLDER THAN ALL OF US.
WELL, ISN'T SHE AN AMAZON?



FOR EXAMPLE, IF I MARRIED YOU, SUMIRE-CHAN...
FOUR MINI-MOTHER-IN-LAWS!
I GUESS SO.
I BET WHOEVER YOU'LL MARRY IS GOING TO HAVE A HARD TIME, THOUGH.
THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD.





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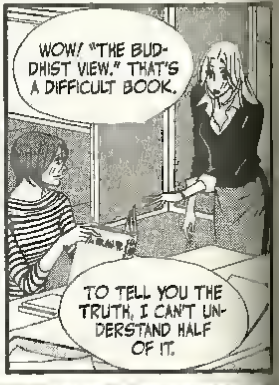
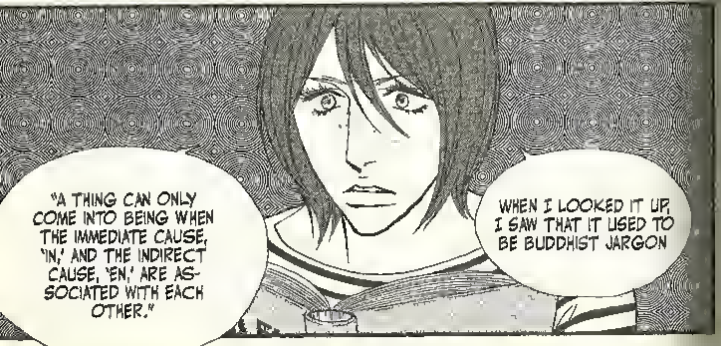
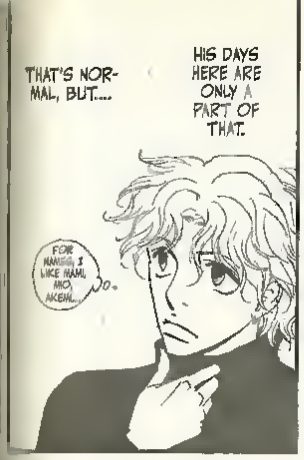
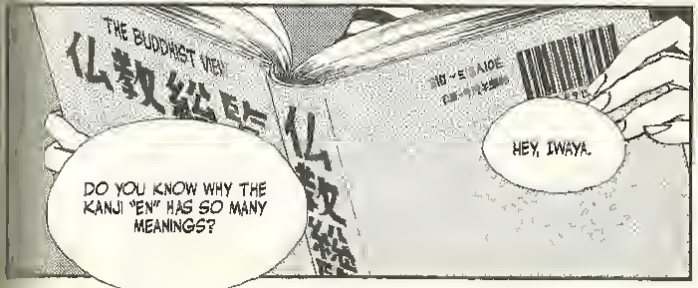
WHEN I TOLD PROFESSOR MATSUI FROM MY JAPANESE CLASS THAT WE SHOULD STUDY THE CHARACTER "EN"...
...HE SAID THAT WOULD TAKE TIME, SO WE SHOULD WAIT FOR NEXT TIME.
OH.
IT'S TRUE THERE ISN'T A WORD IN ENGLISH THAT FITS IT PERFECTLY, BUT...




"A THING CAN ONLY COME INTO BEING WHEN THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE, 'IN,' AND THE INDIRECT CAUSE, 'EN,' ARE ASSOCIATED WITH EACH OTHER."
WHEN I LOOKED IT UP, I SAW THAT IT USED TO BE BUDDHIST JARGON



...MOMO HAS HIS OWN LIFE.
AFTER ALL...
MY OLDEST SISTER'S HUSBAND TOOK OUR FAMILY NAME AND IS PROBABLY GOING TO TAKE OVER DAD'S COMPANY.
OH, BUT I DO WANT KIDS.
I JUST HAVE TO FIND SOMEONE TO HAVE THEM FOR ME.



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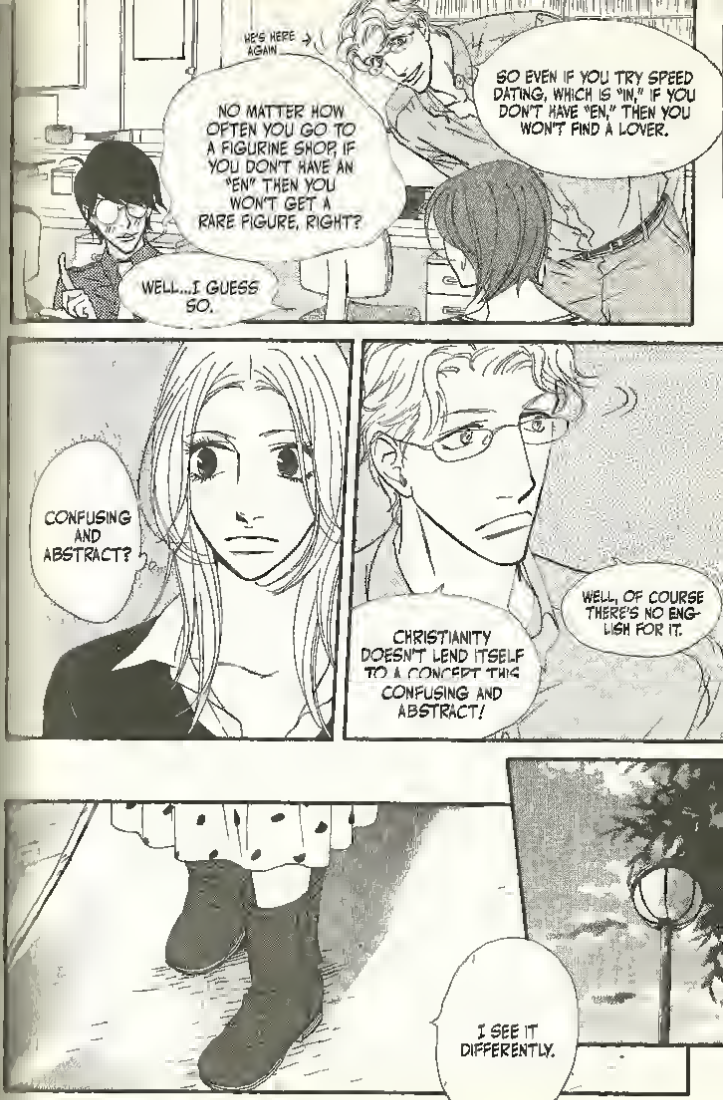
SHE HAS TWO BUNS TODAY ♡
YOU THINK SO, TOO, YURI-CHAN?
THINK ABOUT IT IN THE REVERSE. IF YOU HAVE "EN," THEN YOU'LL BE ABLE TO OVERCOME MOST OBSTACLES, RIGHT?
SENPAI SAID THAT HE WAS GOING TO GO TO KYOTO UNIVERSITY'S COMMERCIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT.
IF HE HAD, WE MAY NOT HAVE MET AT ALL.
YOU CAN'T HELP BUT CALL THAT "EN."
MICK, SIT, OKAY? SIT.
AFTER ALL, I COULDN'T HAVE EVEN DREAMED OF MARRYING HASUMI-SENPAI TEN YEARS AGO.
YEAH, YEAH.
OH, HOLD ON. MICK NEEDS A PIT STOP.
SNIFF SNIFF
BUT WE MIGHT NOT HAVE.
I WOULDN'T THINK OF IT THAT WAY IF WE HAD KNOWN EACH OTHER FOREVER, LIKE YOU AND ME, YURI-CHAN.


HE'S HERE AGAIN
NO MATTER HOW OFTEN YOU GO TO A FIGURINE SHOP, IF YOU DON'T HAVE AN "EN" THEN YOU WON'T GET A RARE FIGURE, RIGHT?
SO EVEN IF YOU TRY SPEED DATING, WHICH IS "IN," IF YOU DON'T HAVE "EN," THEN YOU WON'T FIND A LOVER.
WELL...I GUESS SO.
CONFUSING AND ABSTRACT?
CHRISTIANITY DOESN'T LEND ITSELF TO A CONCEPT THIS CONFUSING AND ABSTRACT!
WELL, OF COURSE THERE'S NO ENGLISH FOR IT.
I SEE IT DIFFERENTLY.

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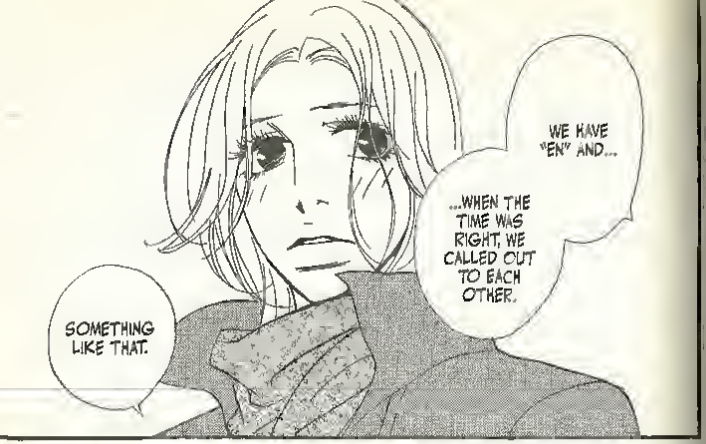
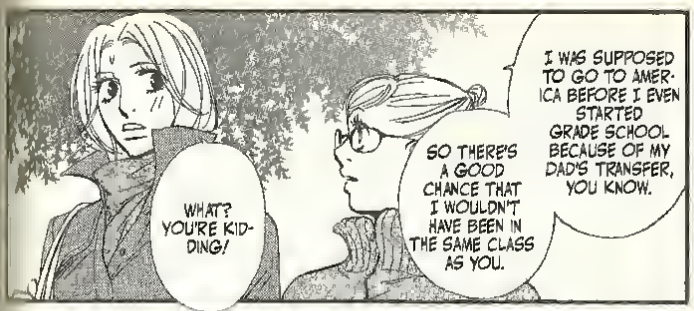
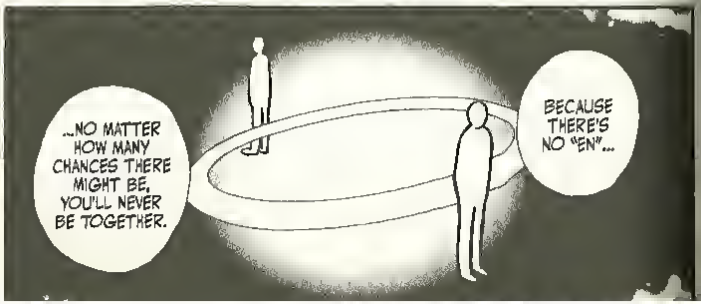
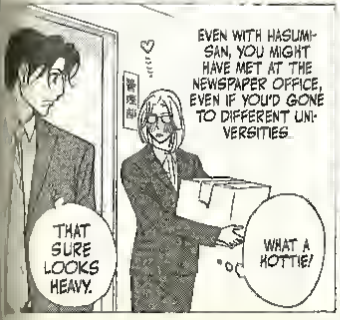


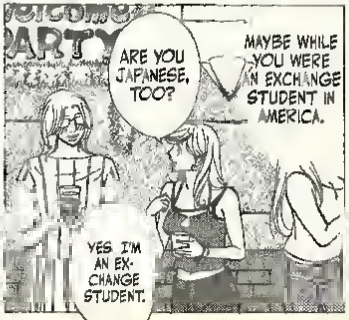

I WAS SUPPOSED TO GO TO AMERICA BEFORE I EVEN STARTED GRADE SCHOOL BECAUSE OF MY DAD'S TRANSFER, YOU KNOW.
SO THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE THAT I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN IN THE SAME CLASS AS YOU.
WHAT? YOU'RE KIDDING!

IT GOES THE OTHER WAY, TOO. SOME PEOPLE ARE CLOSE BY, BUT BECAUSE OF BAD TIMING OR CIRCUMSTANCES, YOU NEVER MEET THEM.
THERE ARE PEOPLE LIKE THAT WHO YOU JUST NEVER MEET.
YEP. IT'S STRANGE.

BUT YOU KNOW, EVEN IF THAT HAPPENED, I THINK WE WOULD HAVE MET SOMEWHERE, SOMEPLACE.
AND WE WOULD HAVE BEEN FRIENDS. THAT'S HOW I FEEL.




EVEN WITH HASUMI-SAN, YOU MIGHT HAVE MET AT THE NEWSPAPER OFFICE, EVEN IF YOU'D GONE TO DIFFERENT UNIVERSITIES.
WHAT A HOTTIE!
THAT SURE LOOKS HEAVY.



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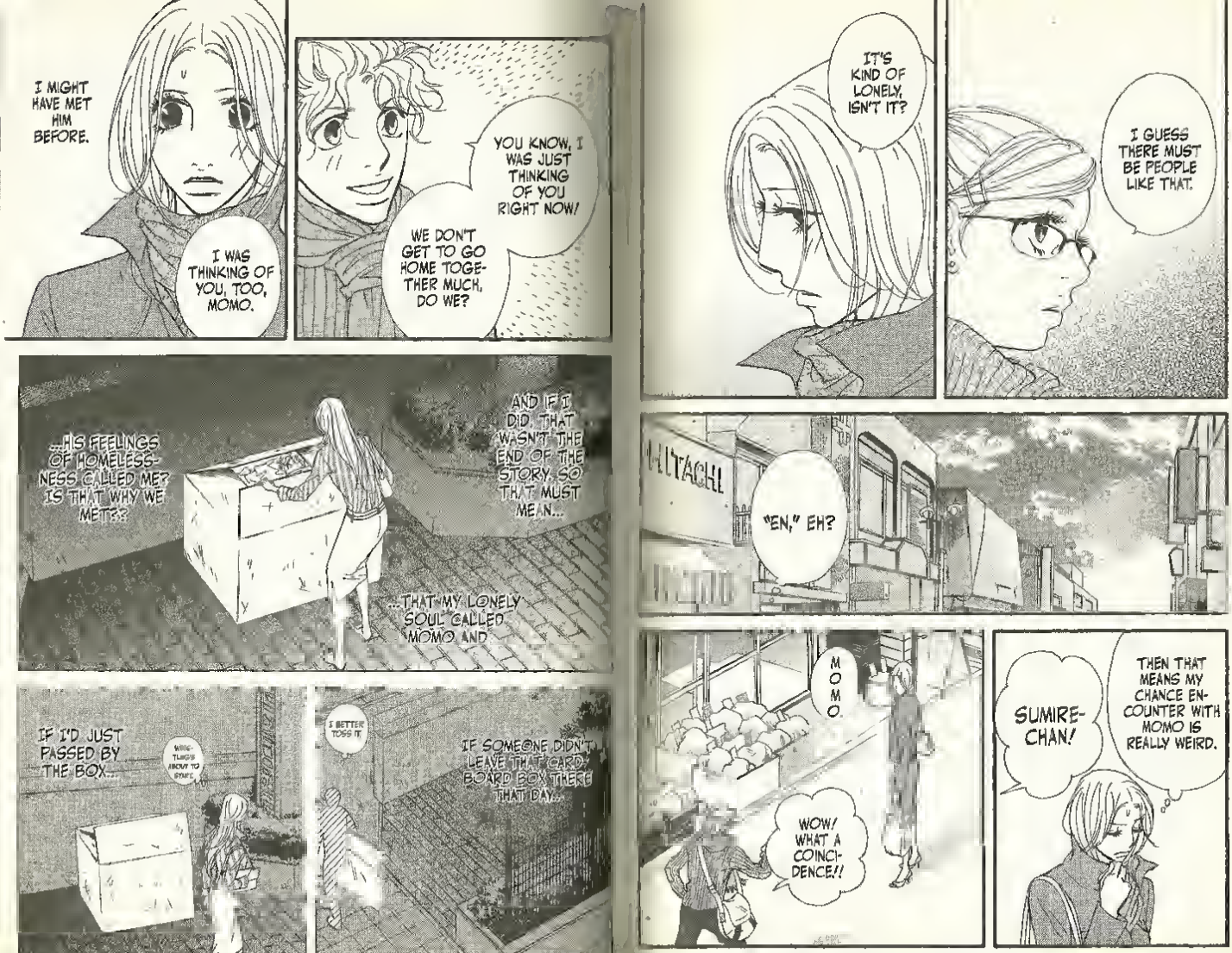
I MIGHT HAVE MET HIM BEFORE.
I WAS THINKING OF YOU, TOO, MOMO.
YOU KNOW, I WAS JUST THINKING OF YOU RIGHT NOW!
WE DON'T GET TO GO HOME TOGETHER MUCH, DO WE?
IT'S KIND OF LONELY, ISN'T IT?
I GUESS THERE MUST BE PEOPLE LIKE THAT.
...HIS FEELINGS OF HOMELESSNESS CALLED ME? IS THAT WHY WE MET?
AND IF I DID, THAT WASN'T THE END OF THE STORY, SO THAT MUST MEAN...
...THAT MY LONELY SOUL CALLED MOMO, AND
HITACHI
"EN," EH?
IF I'D JUST PASSED BY THE BOX...
WHAT THING'S ABOUT TO START...
I BETTER TOSS IT
IF SOMEONE DIDN'T LEAVE THAT CARD BOARD BOX THERE THAT DAY...
MOMO.
WOW! WHAT A COINCIDENCE!!
SUMIRE-CHAN!
THEN THAT MEANS MY CHANCE ENCOUNTER WITH MOMO IS REALLY WEIRD.

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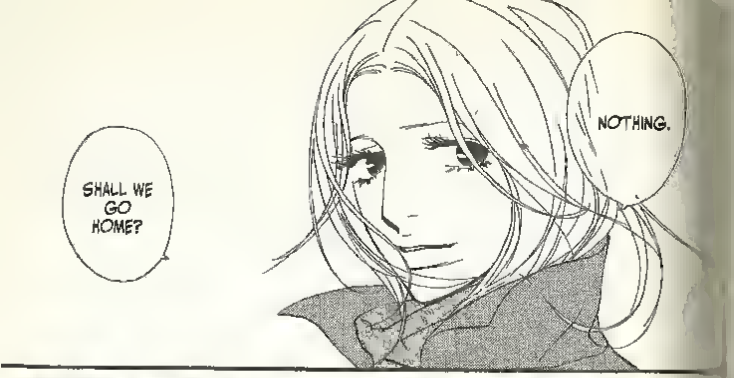
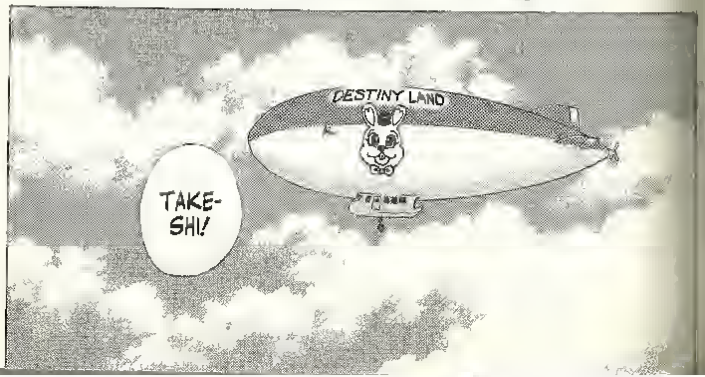
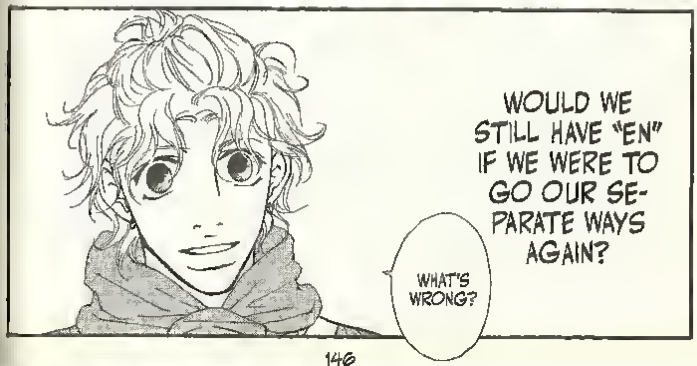


Thirtaen years ago





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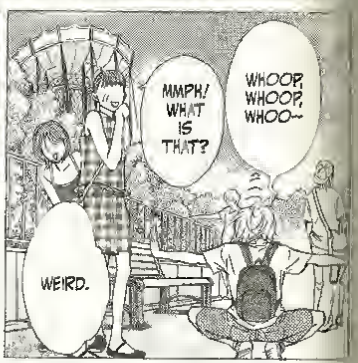
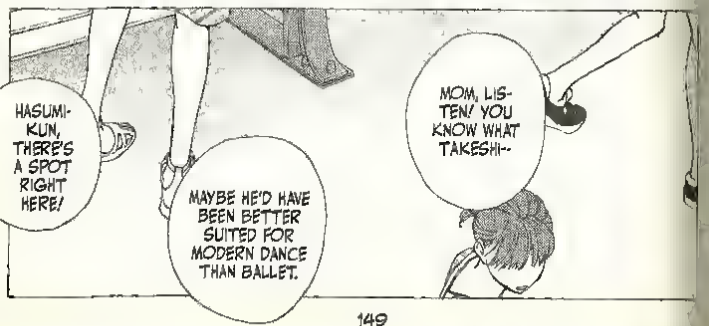
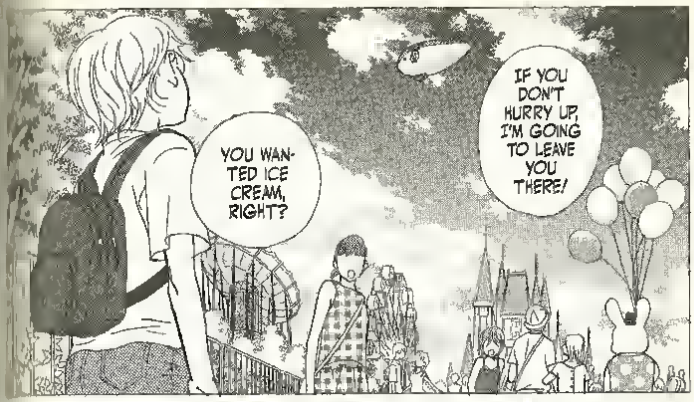
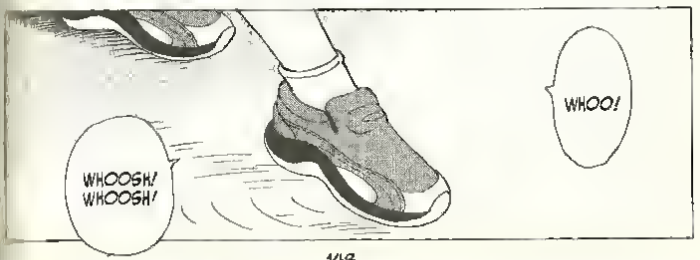



HASUMI-KUN, THERE'S A SPOT RIGHT HERE!
MAYBE HE'D HAVE BEEN BETTER SUITED FOR MODERN DANCE THAN BALLET.
MOM, LISTEN! YOU KNOW WHAT TAKESHI--





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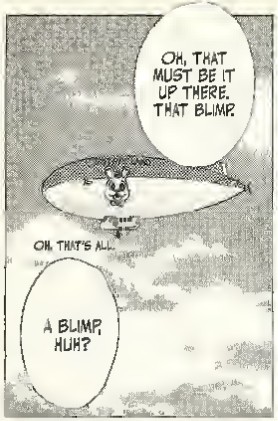
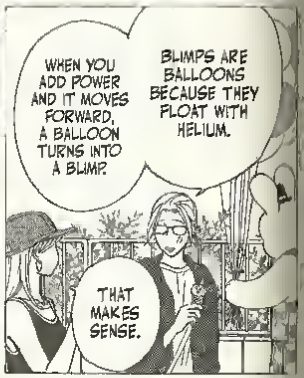
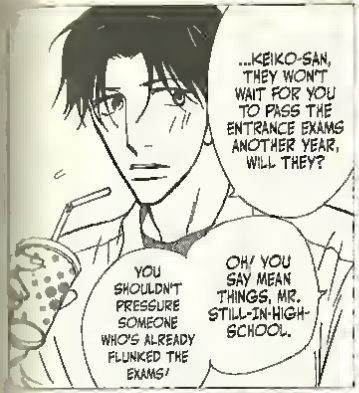
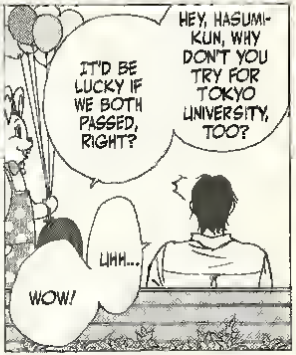
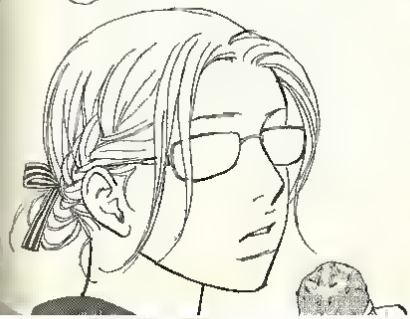



WHEN YOU ADD POWER AND IT MOVES FORWARD, A BALLOON TURNS INTO A BLIMP.
BLIMPS ARE BALLOONS BECAUSE THEY FLOAT WITH HELIUM.
THAT MAKES SENSE.


...KEIKO-SAN, THEY WON'T WAIT FOR YOU TO PASS THE ENTRANCE EXAMS ANOTHER YEAR, WILL THEY?
YOU SHOULDN'T PRESSURE SOMEONE WHO'S ALREADY FLUNKED THE EXAMS!
OH! YOU SAY MEAN THINGS, MR. STILL-IN-HIGH-SCHOOL.





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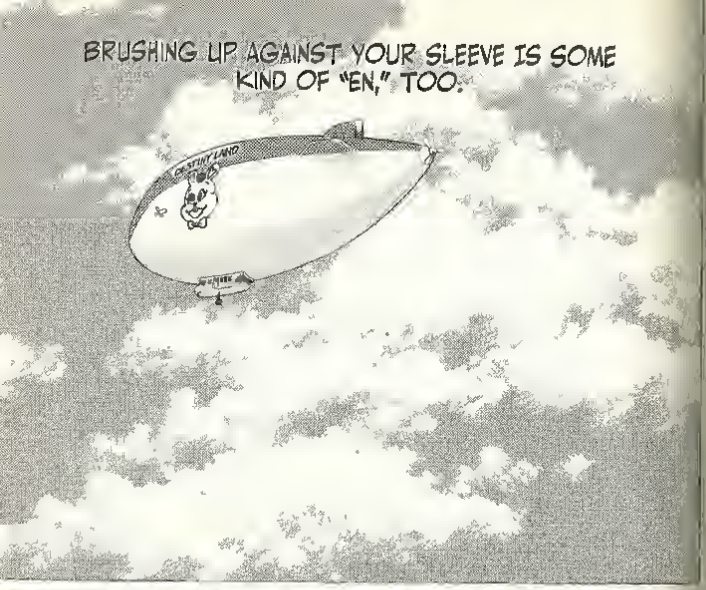

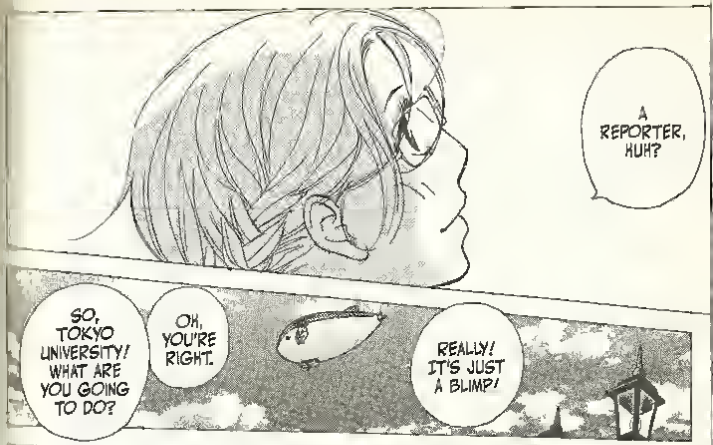

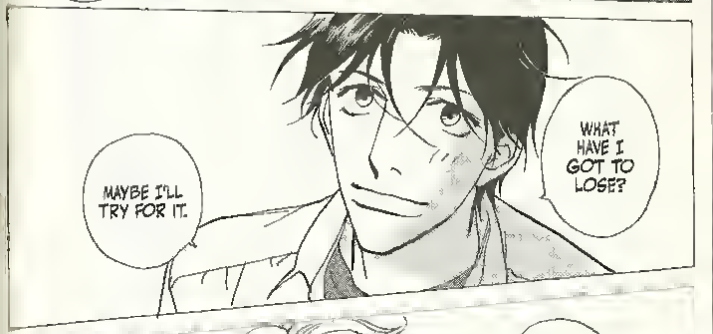

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THEN, ON THE DAY OF THE VISIT TO HASUMI'S FAMILY...
QUIP-PING
MAYBE I'LL SEEM MORE CHEERY IF MY EARS ARE VISIBLE.
I WONDER IF I SHOULD PUT MY HAIR UP AFTER ALL.
HEL-LO?
OH, SENPAI. WHERE ARE YOU?
...WHAT?
SUMIRE-CHAN! THE PHONE'S RINGING!
OOH, I'M STARTING TO THINK MY NAIL POLISH IS TOO LOUD.
I KNOW, I KNOOOW!
A BUSINESS TRIP?!
IT SEEMS WE JUST DON'T HAVE ANY LUCK WITH THINGS LIKE THIS, EH?
I HAVEN'T MET YOUR FAMILY YET EITHER.
SORRY. I KNOW I'M ALWAYS CHANG-ING PLANS AT THE LAST MINUTE.
I ALREADY CALLED MY FAMILY IN YOKOHAMA.
THEY WERE REALLY DISAP-POINTED.
"...NO MATTER HOW MANY CHANCES THERE MIGHT BE..."
"BECAUSE THERE'S NO 'EN'!"
WELL, AT ANY RATE, PLEASE BE CAREFUL.
YES... OKAY...

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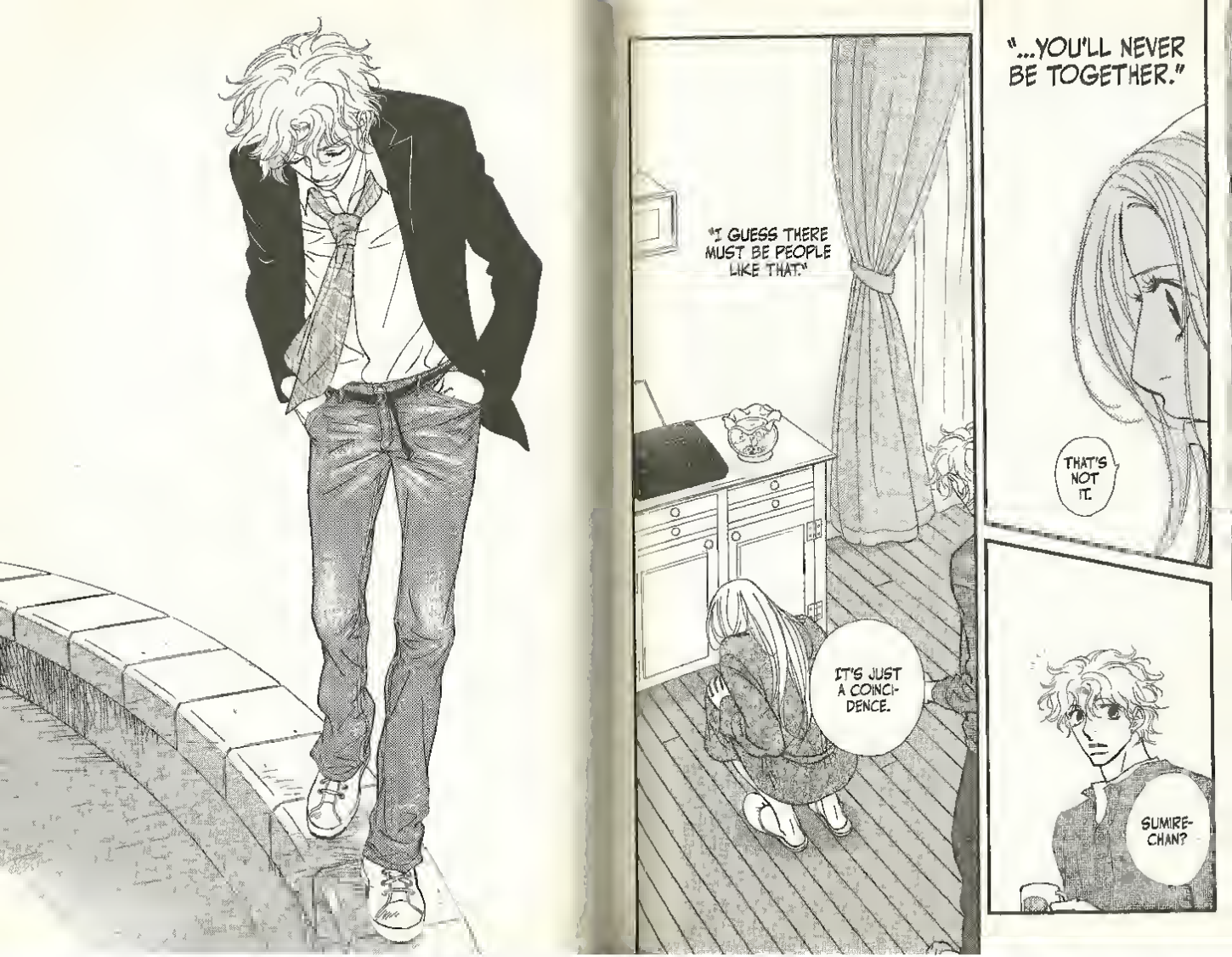

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RULE 58:
PRIORITIES

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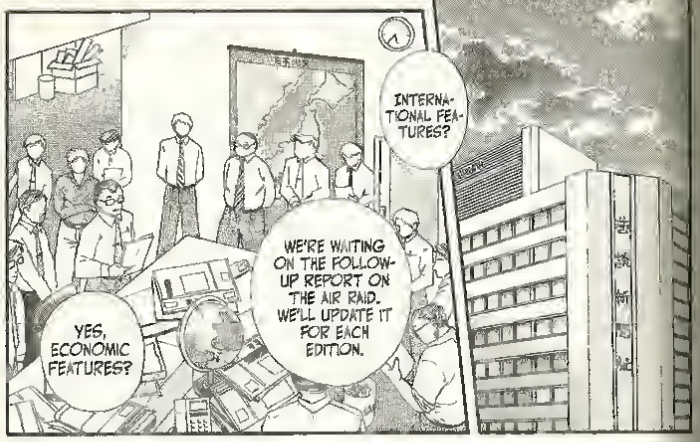
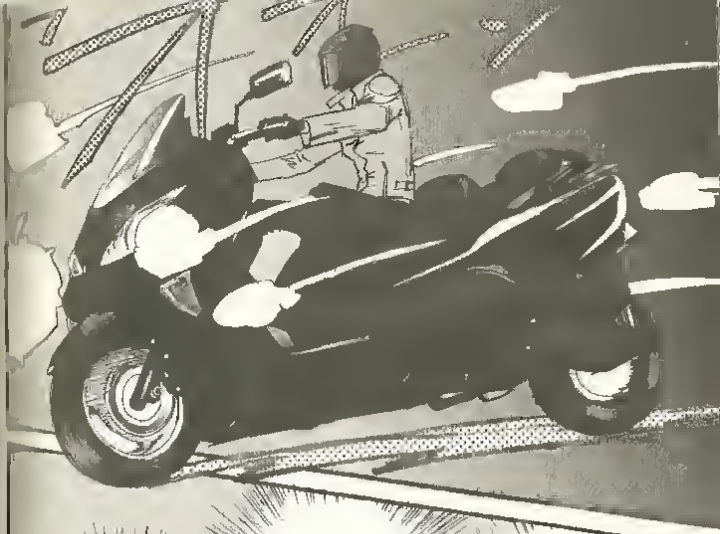
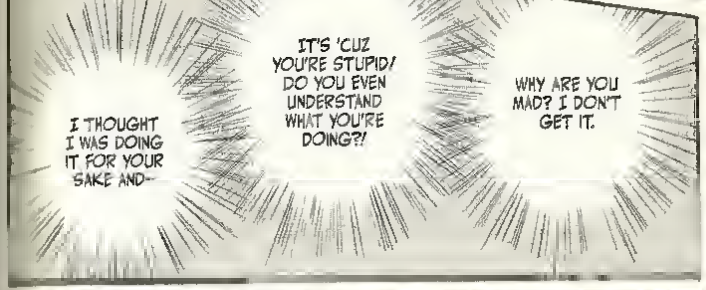

INTERNATIONAL FEATURES?
WE'RE WAITING ON THE FOLLOW-UP REPORT ON THE AIR RAID. WE'LL UPDATE IT FOR EACH EDITION.
YES, ECONOMIC FEATURES?




I THOUGHT I WAS DOING IT FOR YOUR SAKE AND--
IT'S 'CUZ YOU'RE STUPID! DO YOU EVEN UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE DOING?!
WHY ARE YOU MAD? I DON'T GET IT.

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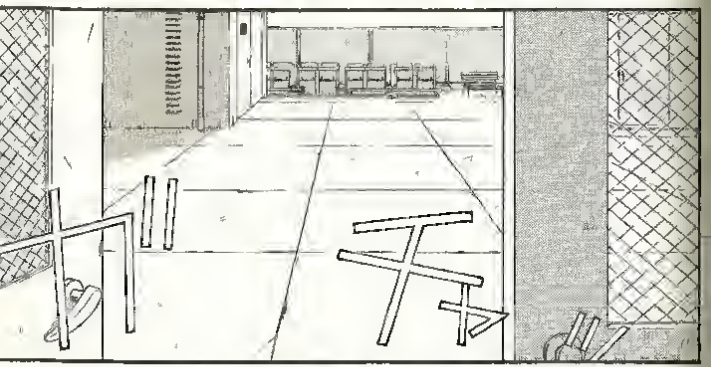
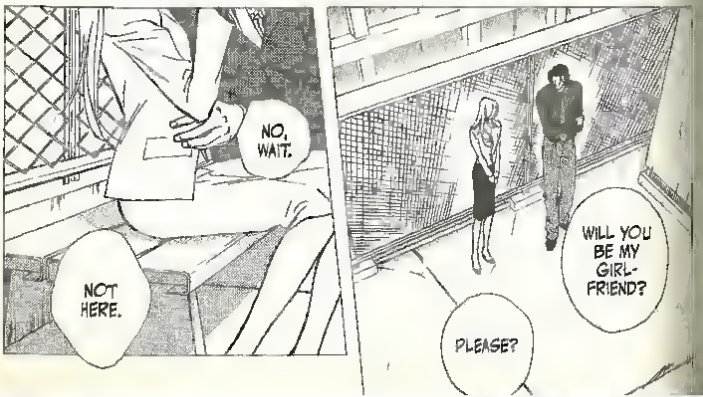
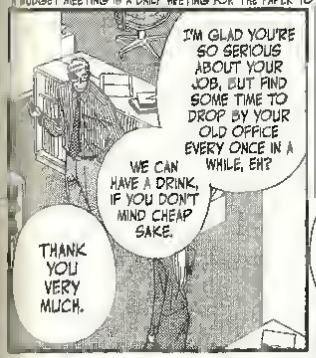
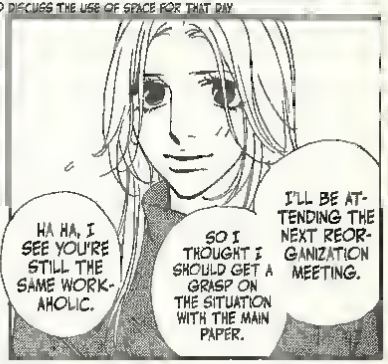
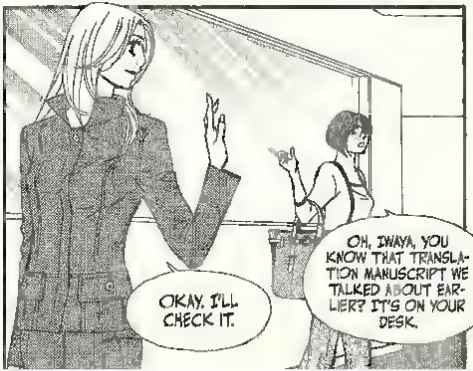




BUDGET MEETING IS A DAILY MEETING FOR THE PAPER TO DISCUSS THE USE OF SPACE FOR THAT DAY


I'M GLAD YOU'RE SO SERIOUS ABOUT YOUR JOB, BUT FIND SOME TIME TO DROP BY YOUR OLD OFFICE EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, EH?
WE CAN HAVE A DRINK, IF YOU DON'T MIND CHEAP SAKE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.


HA HA, I SEE YOU'RE STILL THE SAME WORK-AHOLIC.
SO I THOUGHT I SHOULD GET A GRASP ON THE SITUATION WITH THE MAIN PAPER.
I'LL BE ATTENDING THE NEXT REORGANIZATION MEETING.



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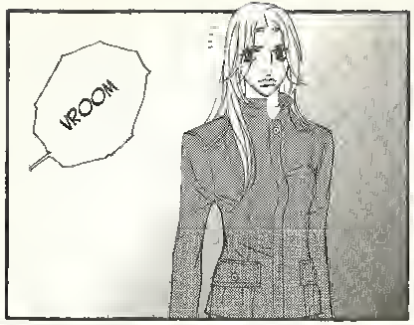

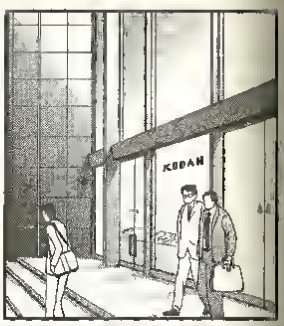

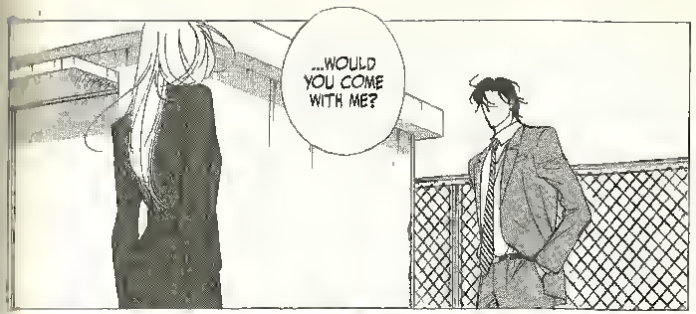

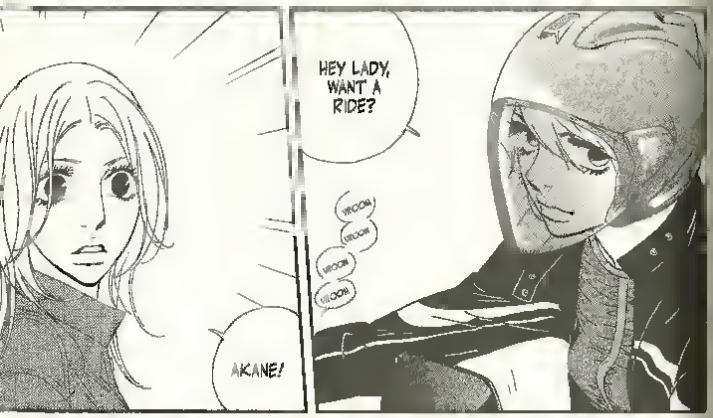

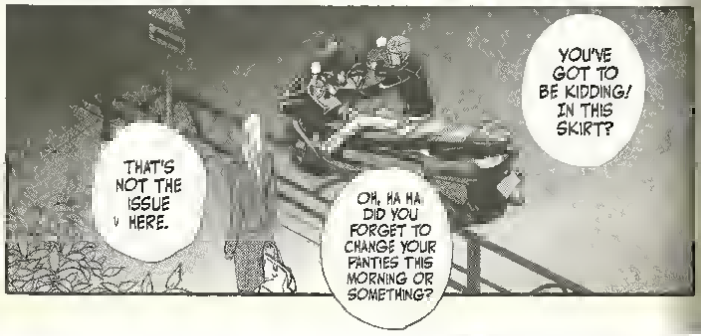
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING! IN THIS SKIRT?
THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE HERE.
OH, HA HA. DID YOU FORGET TO CHANGE YOUR PANTIES THIS MORNING OR SOMETHING?

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VROOOM
THEN I'LL WAIT FOR YOU IN FRONT OF YOUR CONDO.
I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING.
I KNOW.
I THINK THIS MIGHT BE THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN HERE.
IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT YOU COME TO SEE ME.
MEN'S MAGAZINE?
I'M GOING TO CHANGE, SO JUST SIT ANYWHERE.
FINAL FANATIC...?
I'M HOME!
"I'M HOME"?
SIS, IS THERE SOMETHING ALIVE IN HERE?
HMM? WHAT?
ZZZ...

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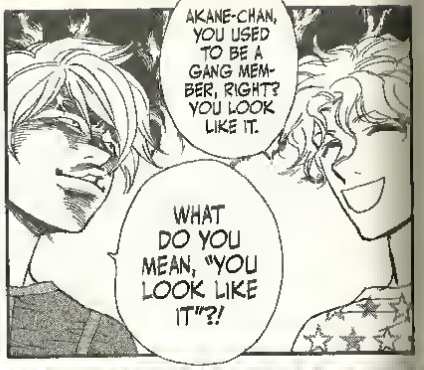
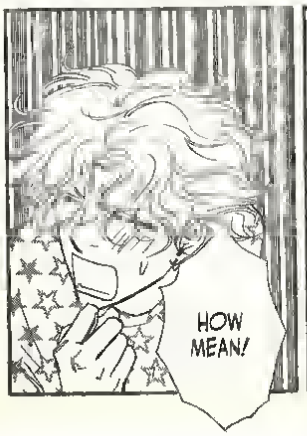
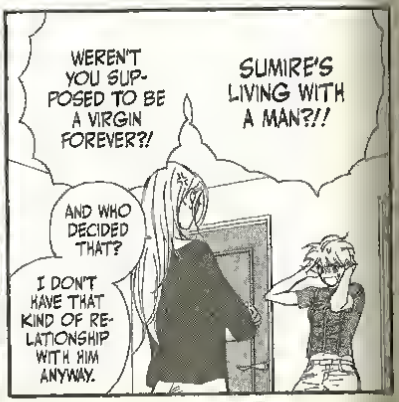
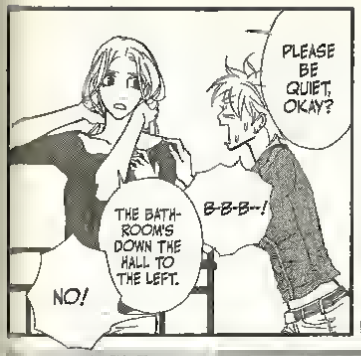
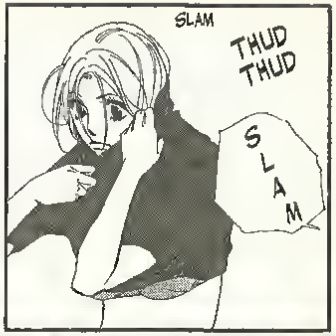
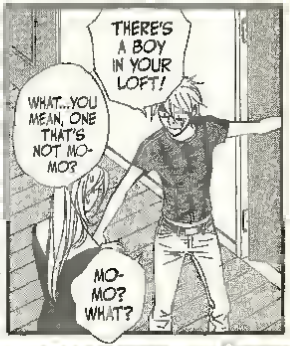


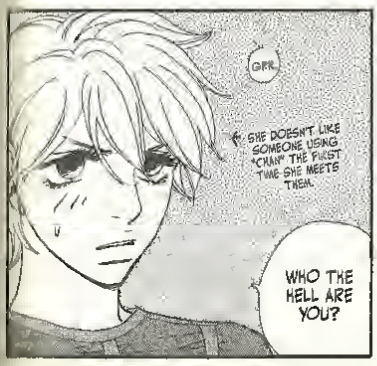


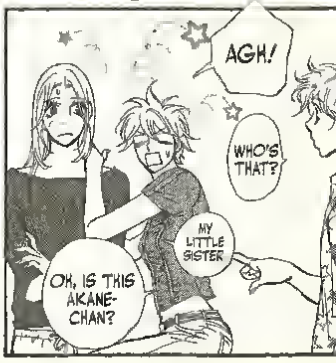

WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE A VIRGIN FOREVER?!
SUMIRE'S LIVING WITH A MAN?!!
AND WHO DECIDED THAT?
I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM ANYWAY.











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SUMIRE-CHAN'S LITTLE SISTER, EH?
THIS IS THE GUY I'M GOING OUT WITH!
SIS, ISN'T YOUR TASTE IN MEN KIND OF DANGEROUS?
THEN WHAT DO YOU CALL THIS, THE FRUIT OF OUR LOVE?
THAT'S WHY I SAID IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
わしっ
HE'S A GOOD-LOOKING GUY, AIN'T HE?
HUH. HE LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE THAT WRESTLER GUY, MUTA.
SO WHAT YOU TOLD GRANDPA REALLY IS TRUE.
THIS ONE! THE STICKER PICTURE ONE.
UH, THAT IS THE GREAT MUTA.
*WRESTLING STAR
THAT COLOR, IS IT NATURAL? IS THAT A PERM?
HMM, SO IT'S NOT A WIG.
OW OW OW!
AKANE!! DON'T BE MEAN TO HIM!
I'LL MAKE DINNER. YOU'RE EATING, RIGHT?
UH, YEAH.

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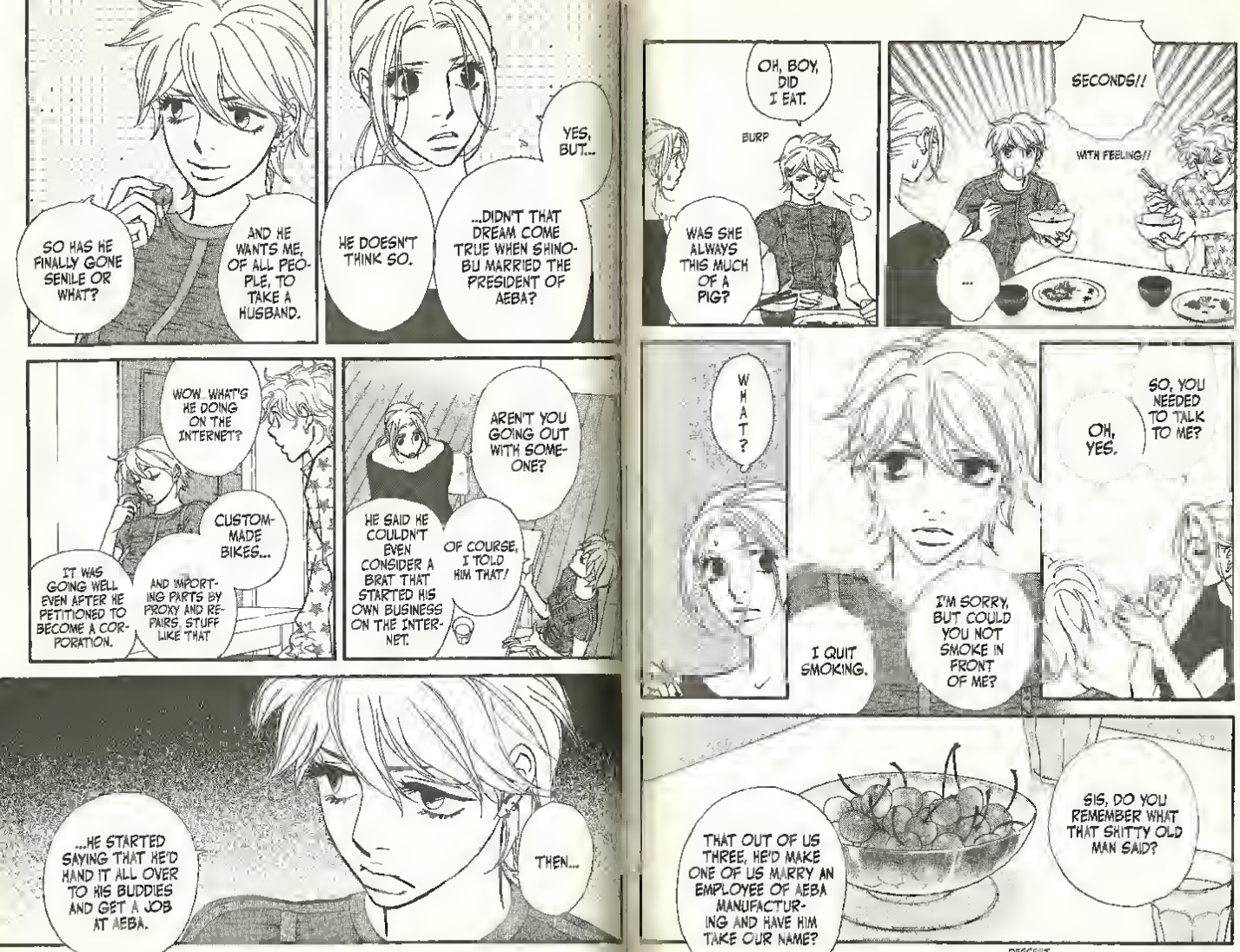
OH, BOY, DID I EAT.
BURP
WAS SHE ALWAYS THIS MUCH OF A PIG?
SECONDS!!
WITH FEELING!!
...
WHAT?
I QUIT SMOKING.
I'M SORRY, BUT COULD YOU NOT SMOKE IN FRONT OF ME?
OH, YES.
SO, YOU NEEDED TO TALK TO ME?
THAT OUT OF US THREE, HE'D MAKE ONE OF US MARRY AN EMPLOYEE OF AEBA MANUFACTURING AND HAVE HIM TAKE OUR NAME?
SIS, DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT THAT SHITTY OLD MAN SAID?
DESSERT.
172
SO HAS HE FINALLY GONE SENILE OR WHAT?
AND HE WANTS ME, OF ALL PEOPLE, TO TAKE A HUSBAND.
HE DOESN'T THINK SO.
YES, BUT...
...DIDN'T THAT DREAM COME TRUE WHEN SHINOBU MARRIED THE PRESIDENT OF AEBA?
WOW. WHAT'S HE DOING ON THE INTERNET?
IT WAS GOING WELL EVEN AFTER HE PETITIONED TO BECOME A CORPORATION.
CUSTOM-MADE BIKES...
AND IMPORTING PARTS BY PROXY AND REPAIRS. STUFF LIKE THAT
AREN'T YOU GOING OUT WITH SOMEONE?
HE SAID HE COULDN'T EVEN CONSIDER A BRAT THAT STARTED HIS OWN BUSINESS ON THE INTERNET.
OF COURSE, I TOLD HIM THAT!
...HE STARTED SAYING THAT HE'D HAND IT ALL OVER TO HIS BUDDIES AND GET A JOB AT AEBA.
THEN...
173

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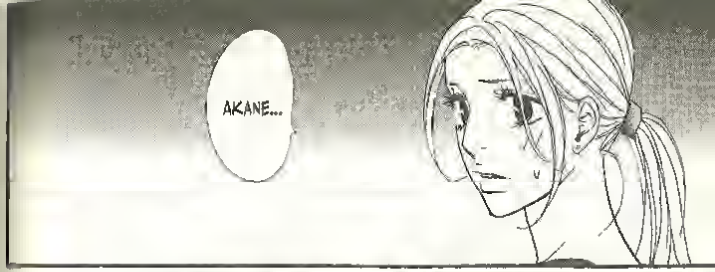
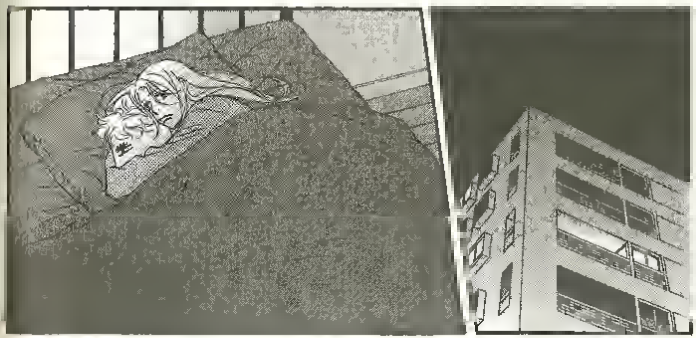
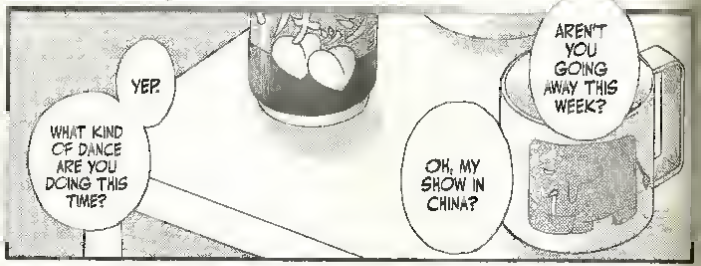
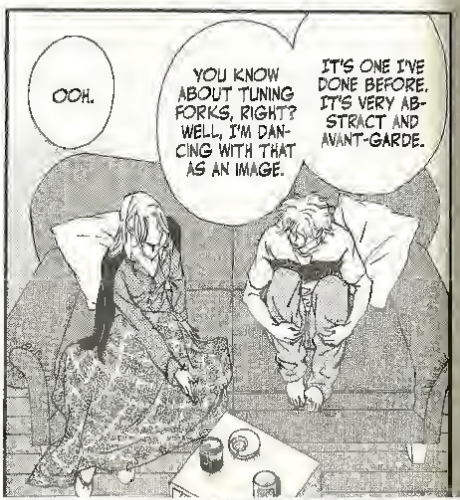
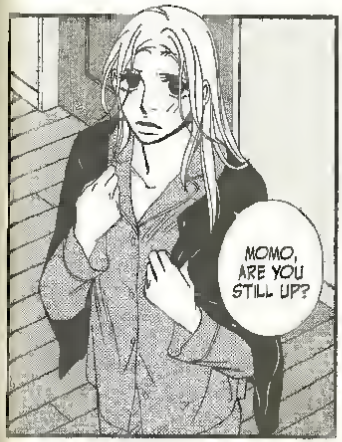
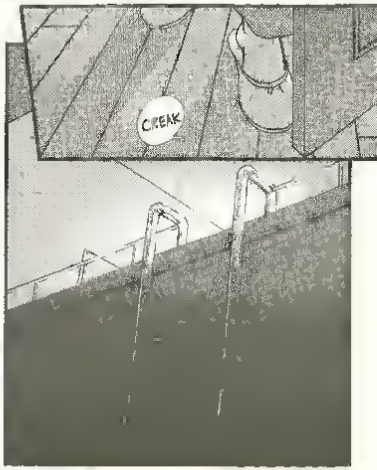







OOH.
YOU KNOW ABOUT TUNING FORKS, RIGHT? WELL, I'M DANCING WITH THAT AS AN IMAGE.
IT'S ONE I'VE DONE BEFORE. IT'S VERY ABSTRACT AND AVANT-GARDE.





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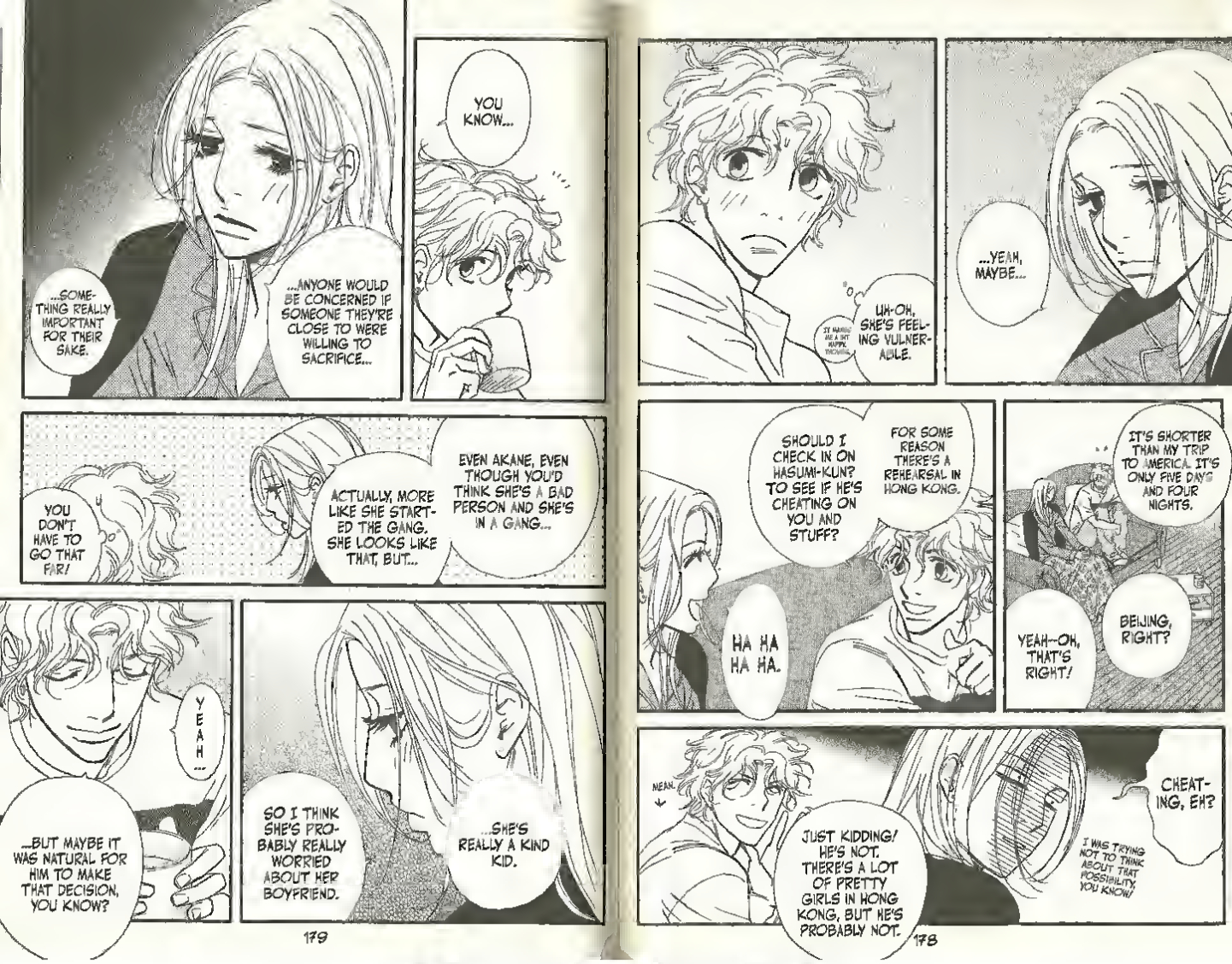
...SOMETHING REALLY IMPORTANT FOR THEIR SAKE.
...ANYONE WOULD BE CONCERNED IF SOMEONE THEY'RE CLOSE TO WERE WILLING TO SACRIFICE...
YOU KNOW...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO THAT FAR!
ACTUALLY, MORE LIKE SHE STARTED THE GANG. SHE LOOKS LIKE THAT, BUT...
EVEN AKANE, EVEN THOUGH YOU'D THINK SHE'S A BAD PERSON AND SHE'S IN A GANG...
YEAH...
...BUT MAYBE IT WAS NATURAL FOR HIM TO MAKE THAT DECISION, YOU KNOW?
SO I THINK SHE'S PROBABLY REALLY WORRIED ABOUT HER BOYFRIEND.
...SHE'S REALLY A KIND KID.
179
IT MAKING ME A BIT HAPPY, THOUGH.
UH-OH, SHE'S FEELING VULNERABLE.
...YEAH, MAYBE...
SHOULD I CHECK IN ON HASUMI-KUN? TO SEE IF HE'S CHEATING ON YOU AND STUFF?
FOR SOME REASON THERE'S A REHEARSAL IN HONG KONG.
HA HA HA HA.
IT'S SHORTER THAN MY TRIP TO AMERICA. IT'S ONLY FIVE DAYS AND FOUR NIGHTS.
BEIJING, RIGHT?
YEAH--OH, THAT'S RIGHT!
MEAN.
JUST KIDDING! HE'S NOT. THERE'S A LOT OF PRETTY GIRLS IN HONG KONG, BUT HE'S PROBABLY NOT.
I WAS TRYING NOT TO THINK ABOUT THAT POSSIBILITY, YOU KNOW!
CHEATING, EH?
178

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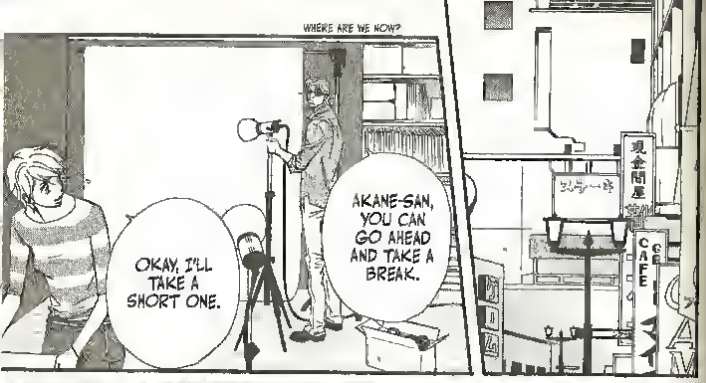
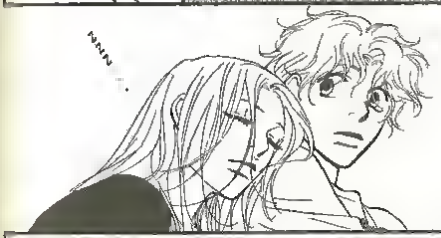
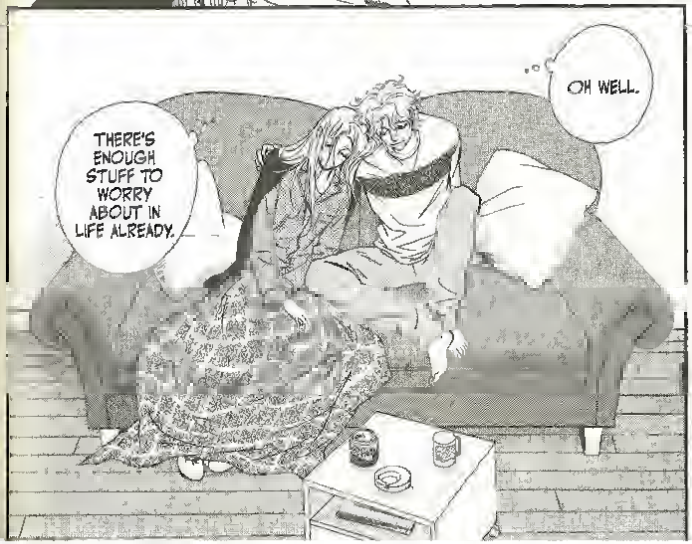


I DON'T THINK THERE'S A HARD AND FAST RULE WHEN IT COMES TO WHAT YOU SHOULD SACRIFICE IN ORDER TO GET THE THING THAT'S MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU.





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WHY?! WASN'T THE BIKE SHOP YOUR DREAM?!
RIGHT NOW MY DREAM IS TO BECOME THE PRESIDENT OF AEBA MANUFACTURING!
STUPID! IT'S NOT YOUR FAMILY BUSINESS!
LEAVE IT ALL TO ME!
I GOT THE JOB!
USED TO IT.
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
TURNS OUT IT WAS GOOD THAT I HIGHLIGHTED BEING IN A STOCK COMPANY'S THINK TANK AND KNOWING THE INS AND OUTS OF MARKETING. ♡
I DON'T WANT YOU TO CHANGE WHO YOU ARE--
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO TAKE OVER YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
I WANT TO DO THIS BECAUSE I NEED YOU AND OUR KID!
I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU, MY SWEETHEA--
SO THIS IS WHERE YOU ARE! ♡
SLOW MOTION
--RT! ♡
YOU SHOULD'VE CALLED.
IT WOULDN'T PICK UP.
OH! THAT'S RIGHT. I LEFT IT OFF.
AKANE!
SO WHAT'S UP?
NOTHING... I WAS JUST WONDERING WHAT--
AKANE!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HINT HIM!
I TOLD YOU THAT YOU LOOK STUPID IN A MONKEY SUIT! AND THAT HAIR!
IT'S ALMOST DISGUSTING!

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?!?
CONVINCING THAT HE WON'T GET HIT
...
WAIT A MINUTE!
WHAT KID?!
...
I THINK I'VE HEARD THAT SOMEWHERE BEFORE...
...TO GET THE THING THAT'S MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU, RIGHT?
IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S SOME HARD AND FAST RULE THAT SAYS WHAT YOU SHOULD SACRIFICE...

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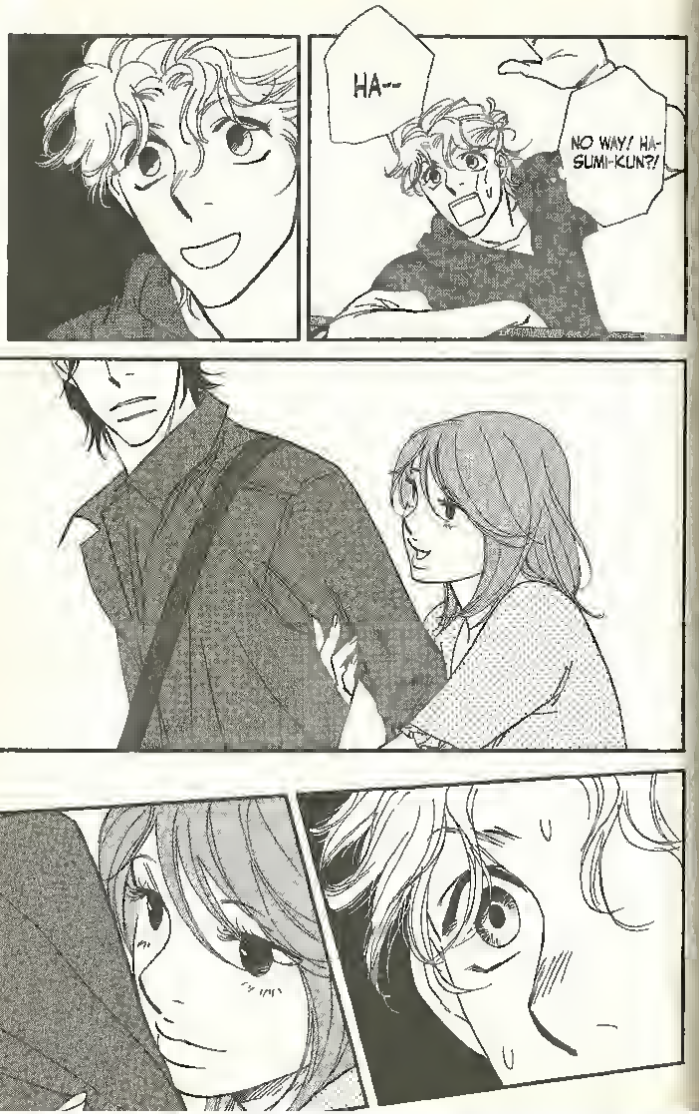

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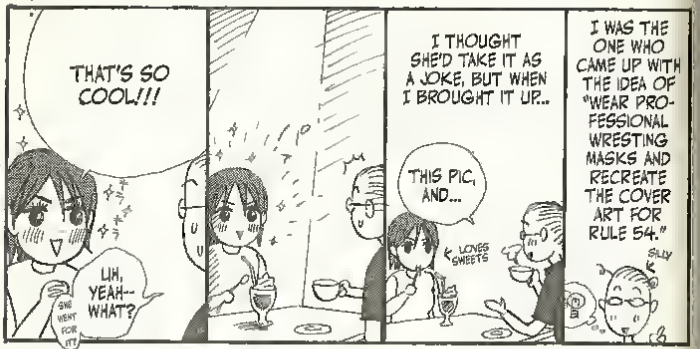
BRAND NEW

MA-CHAN GOES FOR IT!


THAT'S SO COOL!!!
UH, YEAH-- WHAT?
SHE WENT FOR IT!
I THOUGHT SHE'D TAKE IT AS A JOKE, BUT WHEN I BROUGHT IT UP...
THIS PIC, AND...
K LOVES SWEETS
I WAS THE ONE WHO CAME UP WITH THE IDEA OF "WEAR PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING MASKS AND RECREATE THE COVER ART FOR RULE 54."
SILLY K

AS A SOUVENIR, WE HAD THEM TAKE A PHOTO OF US WITHOUT THE MASKS, TOO.
click
MAYBE IS A PROFESSIONAL HE DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO SEE THE REAL ONE.
UNTIL THE END THE CAMERAMAN KEPT SAYING "YOU SHOULD USE THIS ONE."
YAY! YAY! YAY! I CAN'T WAIT TO WEAR THEM IN THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT!
SHE REALLY WANTS TO WEAR THEM RIGHT NOW.
WHY IS SHE SO HAPPY?
YOU SAY THAT BUT YOU EVEN BROUGHT COLOR CONTACTS TO COSPLAY MYSTERIO
FOR MATSU
TIGER MASK
(BECAUSE HER FACE IS LIKE A CAT'S)
FOR OGAWA
REI MYSTERIO
(BECAUSE THEY'RE ABOUT THE SAME HEIGHT)
"MY DOLL"
RECEIPT, PLEASE. WE'RE FROM KODANSHA COMICS!
I THOUGHT SHE WOULD BACK OUT!
WE WENT TO A PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING SHOP IN SHINJUKU TO BUY THE MASKS.

MA-CHAN'S COUNTERARGUMENT

1. UM, OGAWA, DIDN'T YOU PAY FOR THOSE TWO FRILLY DRESSES OUT OF YOUR OWN POCKET?

2. WHAT IS THIS "BRAND NEW," ANYWAY? IT HASN'T CHANGED A BIT FROM THE START

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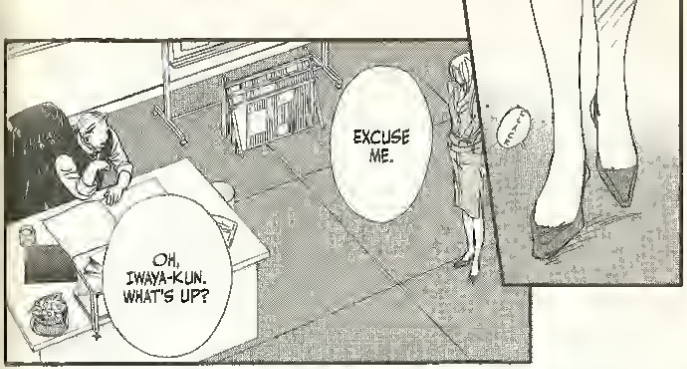
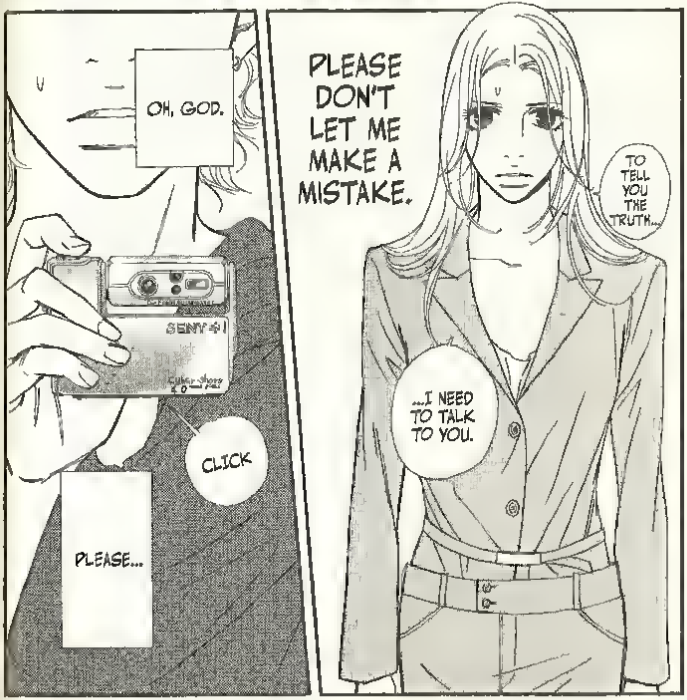
N・SHIMA,K・OHTA
Y・SHIROMARU,A・KOYANO

CHECK IT!
小川彌生オフィシャルサイト
EXTRA HEAVY SYROP
http://www.linkclub.or.jp/~asasin/





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